

Seven perish in world's worst space flight tragedy

Crew die in shuttle disaster



The moment of disaster as the shuttle exploded in a ball of fire two minutes after lift-off from Cape Canaveral

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

Blackboard jungle
Profile of the
British teacher

Travelling man
James Fenton on
the writing of
Angus Wilson

Kicking sand
England warm up
for the World
Cup in Cairo

**Another
income tax?**
The rates option
the Government
has forgotten

Portfolio

There is \$4,000 to be won in today's Times Portfolio competition because there was no winner yesterday. On Saturday there is \$40,000 in the weekly competition—double the usual amount because there was no prize last weekend. Portfolio list, page 18; how to play, information service, back page.

Oil price rise lifts sterling

The pound rose two cents yesterday on news of firmer oil prices and greater confidence in the Prime Minister after the Westland debate. Britain's trade swung back into surplus of £125 million in December, and the FT 30 share index rose 16 points to a new high of 1,155.4. Market report, page 15. Prices, page 18.

Howe facing new pressure

Britain is likely to come under new pressure to impose economic sanctions against South Africa when Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, attends a meeting between EEC foreign ministers and the black front-line states in Lusaka next week.

Temple siege

Indian paramilitary troops built sand bunkers around the Golden Temple in Amritsar as 600 Sikh militants inside vowed to keep control of the shrine. Delhi fails, page 6.

Walesa trial

The Polish authorities have summoned Mr Lech Walesa for trial on slander charges in an attempt to end his apparent immunity from prosecution. Page 5.

EEC vote

Denmark's Parliament, the Folketing, voted yesterday to call a national referendum on an EEC treaty reform package it rejected a week ago. Signing agreed, page 6.

Manila fear

Roman Catholic bishops in the Philippines said they could see signs of cheating, lies and violence in the presidential election campaign. US on the fence, page 6.

School age

The possibility of raising the compulsory school starting age from five years old to six is being explored by the all-party Commons education select committee. Page 2.

Clogged court

Radical measures to tackle the mounting crisis of congestion in the Commercial Court in London are urged by a committee of lawyers. Page 2.

Fatty genes

Fatness is caused by genes rather than upbringing, which may help scientists to find out how to combat obesity, according to research just published. Page 2.

Scotland win

Scotland began their preparations for the World Cup finals with an undisputed 1-0 win in a practice match against Israel in Tel Aviv. Page 19.

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From Michael Binyon and Christopher Thomas Washington

The US shuttle Challenger, carrying a crew of seven, exploded in a fireball over the Atlantic two minutes after blast-off from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida in the worst ever space disaster.

Wreckage plunged into the sea a few miles offshore from Cape Canaveral. Rescue ships and helicopters raced to the area but were held back for an hour by the rain of burning debris. All crew members, including the two women — one of them the first teacher in space — are presumed dead. Medical personnel were waiting to parachute into the crash area. Vice-President George

Bush rushed into the Oval office to tell the President of the disaster. Mr Reagan immediately broke off his meeting with top advisers and hurried next door to watch live television pictures. The White House spokesman said he was stunned and close to tears. The House of Representatives held prayers and immediately adjourned.

President Reagan cancelled his scheduled State of the Union address to Congress yesterday evening, and arranged to give it next Tuesday instead. He ordered Mr Bush to Cape Canaveral to express his sympathy to the families of the shuttle astronauts. The tragedy, watched by millions, including the families of the crew, came without warning after a per-

fect lift-off. A solid rocket booster apparently exploded nine miles up just as ground control instructed the crew to throttle up. A blazing multi-coloured ball of fire engulfed the shuttle, which then seemed to spin out of control, breaking up as it fell. It happened so fast that ground control had no time to put into effect the emergency procedures practised before the mission. The crew was not equipped with ejector seats.

The shuttle mission had already been postponed twice because of bad weather and mechanical problems. Yesterday morning, as temperatures plunged to well below freezing, officials from NASA held an emergency meeting to discuss two fit icicles that had formed

around the shuttle, which it was feared could damage the heat shield.

The shuttle flight was the 25th in a programme that has dazzled the world with its scientific successes and technical advances. But the past two launches have been bedevilled by delays and technical problems, threatening the tight launch schedule.

More details and pictures, pages 2 and 3

It was President Reagan's idea to send a schoolteacher into space. After a nationwide competition Mrs Christa McAuliffe was chosen from more than 11,000 applicants. She was to have given two live lessons from space during the six-day mission. Her husband and two children

were among the thousands of spectators who watched the blast-off of the \$1.2 billion spacecraft at the launch pad.

About 75 seconds after launch the shuttle had accelerated to a speed of 1,977mph, three times the speed of sound. It was 10.4 miles up and eight miles out over the ocean. After the explosion, 45 seconds later, one of the Challenger's two solid rockets, which were clamped to the side of the spacecraft, veered to the right and began spiralling through the sky. The sickening dull roar of the explosion could be clearly heard on live television.

Distraught spectators at Cape Kennedy, including hundreds of schoolchildren who had come to watch Mrs McAuliffe from New Hamp-

shire, wept as the full extent of the disaster became known.

At NASA Control Centre scientists and engineers immediately put emergency procedures into operation but were able to do nothing to save the doomed spacecraft.

Challenger took off from launch pad 39B, a refurbished moon rocket facility, at 16.38 GMT after two last-minute snags caused by computer problems with ground equipment and con-

cern about ice on the launch pad.

On the shuttle were Mrs McAuliffe, Commander Francis Scobee, Commander Michael Smith, Dr Judith A. Resnik, Mr Ronald McNair, Lieutenant-Colonel Ellison S. Onizuka and Mr Gregory Jarvis.

Kennedy Space Centre officials said that the Challenger appeared to explode as the astronauts were beginning to throttle the engines to maximum thrust.

Wapping dispute

TUC instructs unions not to cross Murdoch picket lines

By John Young and Anthony Bevins

The TUC general council yesterday approved a call by the print and transport unions to other unions to instruct their members not to cross picket lines at News International's new plants in Wapping, east London, and in Glasgow.

The council also decided to go ahead with its suspension procedure against the EETPU. A complaint by the print unions would be heard on Thursday and the findings considered by the council next week.

Mr Eric Hammond, the EETPU general secretary, was the only union leader at the meeting to register dissent. Mr Hammond was kicked and punched when he arrived with colleagues at Congress House and said afterwards that he thought some union officials were among those responsible.

Police fought to hold back demonstrators as he arrived at the meeting, and one print worker shouted: "You have put me out of a job, Hammond. You are a dis-

grace to the trade union movement." Only a few moments before he arrived, a Sogat official had appealed to demonstrators to refrain from physical protests. Mr Hammond said later that he



Mr Hammond being jostled at Congress House yesterday

Tory MPs cheer rates reform plan

By Richard Evans and Colin Hughes

Mr Kenneth Baker's local government reform package was given a surprisingly warm welcome last night by Conservative backbenchers buoyed up by the prospect of an end to the archaic rates system.

Instead of the anticipated reservations about the proposed poll tax, known as the community charge, Government supporters went out of their way to welcome the concept of restoring the relationship between those who vote and those who pay towards town hall spending. Sir Hugh Rossi, MP for Hornsey and Wood Green, and a former environment minister, summed up the feeling of his colleagues when he said the return "at last" of the connection between taxation and representation would be widely welcomed in the country.

With the Prime Minister listening to her party's reaction to Mr Baker's statement, Mr Ian Gow, her former parliamentary private secretary, insisted the proposals represented a great advance in equity in taxation. One of the few criticisms came from Mr Robert

Rhodes James, MP for Cambridge, who said although it was acceptable that higher education students should pay the proposed community charge, they were already suffering from loss of grant and should be covered by low income protection.

Local council representatives and finance specialists will seek a prolonged debate on the proposals, most arguing that some form of domestic property tax should be retained. The Association of County Councils has asked for the consultation period to be extended from July to October to enable its member authorities to respond to the proposals.

Mr David Blunkett, deputy chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, called the community charge a "dressed up poll tax". Along with the proposal to fix industrial rates, it would increase central control and continue the government's attempt to link voting with property and wealth.

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Failure raises vital questions over future of programme

Maximum throttle-shuttle's most vulnerable moment

By Pearce Wright Science Editor

The shuttle explosion was the fourth catastrophe, and the worst, in which astronauts died in either the American or Russian programme. The accident occurred about one minute after launch, when the vehicle was at its most vulnerable. It was at the stage of the mission when the commander of the vehicle put maximum throttle on his engines.

This was needed to leave the atmosphere and reach the comparative safety of orbit. But it was also the moment of greatest stress on the machine.

The accident questions a system on which the Americans have placed their faith for the next 20 years of space exploration.

This was the 25th trial of one of the fleet of shuttle vehicles. But the last three

flights have been delayed by an increasing number of small faults.

The explosion happened in a part of the equipment which made the shuttle a unique form of launch vehicle. The part of the equipment, which is a huge cylinder carrying fuel, is the place where the explosion appears to have occurred. Almost an hour after blast off, debris from the vehicle was still falling from over 4 miles high into the ocean.

The shuttle's propulsion comes from a number of sources. There are two solid rocket engines strapped to the cylinder, which is known as the external tank, and there are engines at the rear of the aeroplane-like Orbiter craft, that carries the astronauts and any experimental equipment.

Fuel is fed into these engines, and there are three which are the most advanced type ever built.

They burn liquid hydrogen and oxygen under high pressure. There is an immense thrust of 375,000 pounds from each one.

The thrust is varied from about 65% to maximum throttle during a flight. The stage had been reached at which maximum throttle was required.

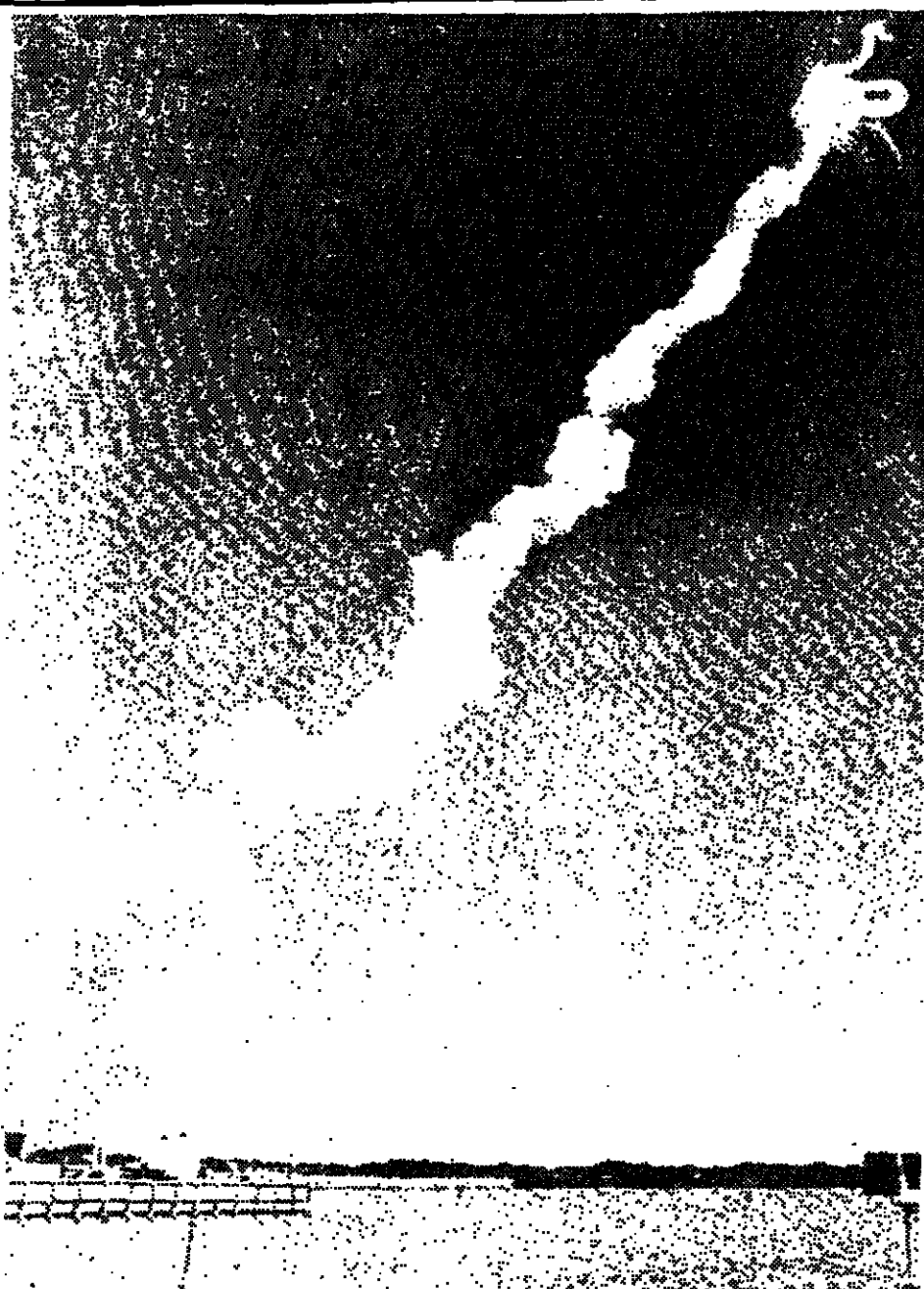
During a lift off most of the power to the shuttle is provided by the two solid

rocket boosters strapped on the side. After their fuel is consumed, those rockets separate from the shuttle and fall on parachutes into the ocean. The empty casings are recovered and reused. These are the largest solid fuel rockets ever flown: they are 149 feet long and over 12 feet in diameter. They are the first ever designed for reuse.

The fuel for the main engines of the shuttle, located at the rear of the Orbiter, come from a tank which is made of aluminium. It is 154 feet long and over 27 feet in diameter. It is the largest single component of the space shuttle, and it is the only part which is not reused. A special type of material which is rolled into a honeycomb-like form is inside. This material was designed to provide the largest capacity but greatest strength for the fuel tank that would have to carry hundreds of tonnes of propellant. But it is a structure which could be penetrated quite easily by a sharp but small object.

Normally, when the external tank is empty, it is allowed to enter the atmosphere to break apart and burn up over the Indian ocean.

Two large conduits feed fuel from the tank into the Orbiter's rear fuselage.



The trail left by Challenger as it explodes (top right).

Catastrophe raises Star Wars doubts

By Henry Stanhope

One big question arising from last night's shuttle disaster is what impact it will have upon the United States Star Wars programme.

Despite the emphasis on scientific exploration which the United States has always placed on the shuttle, it has always been understood that its long-term benefits would arise most clearly from military application in an age when armies depend heavily on satellites.

Russian leaders have continually protested over the development of the shuttle as a provocation, opening up the possibility of the American military interfering with Soviet satellites.

It is unlikely that yesterday's disaster will disrupt entirely Washington's plans for the Strategic Defence Initiative. But it will fuel the doubts of sceptics on both sides of the Atlantic.

Earlier shuttle crises caused no loss of life

The shuttle has encountered a variety of equipment problems in flight, but none was considered life-threatening. There were two previous launch aborts just seconds before take-off.

One mission, the shuttle's second flight in 1981, was cut short by trouble with a fuel cell generator.

The first launch abort occurred on June 26, 1984, when the main engines on the new shuttle Discovery were shut down in the start-up

sequence four seconds before planned lift-off.

The ship's computers detected the problem and halted the launch sequence. Small hydrogen fires flared up beneath the shuttle but they were extinguished quickly by water sprays. The crew of six was in no danger.

On July 12, 1985, the blast-off of the shuttle Challenger was aborted only three seconds before planned lift-off by the failure of an 8in coolant valve.

Previous manned space disasters

The previous most serious failures in the 25-year history of manned space exploration were:

January 27, 1967: Apollo moon capsule burns on launch pad, killing three astronauts on board, Virgil Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chaffee.

April 24, 1967: Soyuz 1 cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov killed when spacecraft encounters control problems during re-entry, and capsule parachute fails. Spacecraft crashes into the Ural Mountains.

April, 1970: Oxygen tank in Apollo command ship explodes en route to moon, forcing three man crew to make dramatic loop around moon and return to Earth with dwindling supplies of oxygen. Crew lands safely in Pacific Ocean.

June 30, 1971: Soyuz 11 decompresses due to hatch seal failure. Cosmonauts Georgy Dobrovolsky, Vladislav Volkov and Viktor Patsayev found dead when spacecraft lands automatically.

April 5, 1975: flight of Soyuz 19 aborted shortly after launch because of upper stage

rocket failure. Cosmonauts Vasily Lazarev and Oleg Makarov rescued after landing in mountainous region of Siberia.

April 22, 1983: Soyuz T-8 with cosmonauts Vladimir Titov, Alexander Serebriy and Gennady Strekalov aboard turns back after missing linkup with Salyut space station.

September 26, 1983: Rocket carrying Soyuz spacecraft with two-man crew catches fire before engine ignition on launch pad, and crew capsule pulled to safety by launch abort rockets.

Two minutes to disaster...

Plan to raise school starting age to six is studied by MPs

By Stephen Goodwin, political staff

The possibility of raising the compulsory school starting age from five years old to six is being explored by the all-party Commons education select committee.

The idea emerged at a meeting of the committee yesterday, but was given short shrift by a primary schools adviser who told the MPs it would be "most counter-productive" unless backed by pre-school opportunities for all children.

The Commons committee is considering a change to the school starting age in the course of its investigation into achievement in primary schools. Both six and four were suggested to witnesses from the School Curriculum Development Committee but neither found much favour.

Mrs Sybil Laver, a Somerset head teacher and member of the committee, told the MPs that more importance should be given to adequate resourcing of teaching for four year olds rather than looking at a starting age of six.

Her view was reinforced by

Mr Jock Killick, a primary adviser from Hampshire, who said no case could be made out for raising the school age if nothing was to be done about the opportunities such a change would remove.

If the starting age was to be six, there would have to be properly financed educational opportunities which met the needs of families with children below that age, Mr Killick argued.

He expressed concern over the "patchy" provision made at present for under-fives. "You cannot provide properly for children of four with up to 35 in a class as is the common position today."

He said the "right age" for starting school varied. For some children it was four, others five or even six. He favoured a universal opportunity of education at four but did not want it to be compulsory at that age.

Three-quarters of all girls leave school with only one science examination pass or with none at all, according to a handbook published yesterday by the Schools Curriculum Development Committee (Lucy Hodges writes).

Moreover the number of schoolgirls studying craft, design and technology is still minuscule despite the introduction of craft fairs in secondary schools. As many as 98 per cent of girls turn away from technical crafts, writes Judith White in *Gender, Science and Technology*, a handbook for teachers.

She says that although there is an increase in the number of girls taking physical sciences, the rate of change is disappointingly slow.

Gender, Science and Technology, Longman Resources Unit, 22 Halffield Road, Haverthorpe, York, YO3 9X.

A whole generation of young history scholars and teachers is being lost to university history departments because of the way the spending cuts have been applied, the Government has been told by the Historical Association.

The NUT is balloting its 216,000 members on a continuation of its work-to-rule in schools which is expected to prolong the disruption in spite of the deal struck at Acas.

The second biggest union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, is balloting its members on the deal and recommending acceptance. Only when the results are known will it call off its strikes.

The third biggest union, the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, which is also recommending acceptance, is expected to call off its work-to-rule next Monday.

Reforms urged in courts

By Frances Gibb

Radical measures to tackle the mounting crisis of congestion in the Commercial Court in London caused by international demand are urged in a report published yesterday.

At the very least there must be wide-ranging reforms to speed up proceedings in the court whose litigation is now "an invisible export of importance", it says.

The report, by a committee of lawyers, has the backing of the Lord Chief Justice. It says these would include cutting back on lengthy opening speeches by counsel, ending protracted reading aloud of documents and legal authorities, exchange of witness statements between parties, providing the judge with a summary of main points and issues and written judgments which would be handed down and not read.

But it says that if present policy allowed it, the obvious solution would be a commercial one: to appoint more judges, back-up staff and improve facilities and charge litigants for the service.

Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, and senior judge of the Commercial Court Committee, said the court was "being strangled by its own success".

In four years the court's workload had doubled; cases were increasing in complexity and documentation had proliferated.

The report, he said, was a "clarion call to get back to basics".

The court is a "dispute settling service with an international clientele" and it forms an essential part of the commercial services provided by the City of London.

The working party, drawn from the judges and lawyers in the Commercial Court Committee, says that in the past five years the Commercial Court has faced a big increase in work with its five judges coping with a big rise in writs and summons issued. "Demand for justice time is exceeding supply."

Among other changes in proceedings called for are: strict control to ensure cases are removed from the list if they do not require the special expertise of the Commercial Court; better preparation and indexing of documents; better pre-trial preparation with timetables for each stage in preliminary proceedings.

The Westland affair Thatcher silence dismays Kinnock

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday put up the shutters on the Westland affair, with a blanket Commons refusal to answer further questions.

The mood of Labour depression, caused by Mr Neil Kinnock's poor Commons performance in Monday's debate, was aggravated by the frustration of facing a Prime Minister who referred all questions back to her Monday speech. She then said each time: "I have nothing else to add."

The Labour leader tried to get Mrs Thatcher to concede that there was no difference between acceptance and acquiescence when Downing Street had responded to the Department of Trade and Industry over the leak of the Solicitor General's letter.

He asked Mrs Thatcher to give a straightforward answer to a straightforward question. Mrs Thatcher said: "I do not share Mr Kinnock's view of a straightforward question. I have nothing further to add."

Labour backbenchers who had cheered Mr Kinnock along when he had stood up

noticeably failed to cheer when he sat down. But they did cheer when Mr Ronald Davies, the Labour MP for Caerphilly, asked: "Does not the Prime Minister think that the best deployment of the polygraph, the lie detector, would not be at GCHQ Cheltenham but at Downing Street?" Mrs Thatcher said again: "I have nothing to add to the replies I have already given."

The only new revelation yesterday was immediately knocked down by Whitehall sources. Mr Alex Carlile, the Liberal MP for Montgomery, alleged in the House that the Prime Minister, or someone acting on her behalf, had telephoned Miss Colette Bowe, the DTI head of information who leaked the Mayhew letter, at her London club on January 20 - two days before the leak inquiry reported.

Downing Street sources said last night that Miss Bowe had not been at her club, the Reform Club, for "several weeks" and that the Prime Minister had not spoken to Miss Bowe this month, if she ever had spoken to her.

Call for water increases

By Hugh Clayton

Thames Water, largest of the nine English water authorities, predicted yesterday that demand in its area would rise by 27 per cent in the next 25 years.

The authority expects the leap in household demand will more than compensate for any continuing decline in water use by industry.

Mr Bill Harper, the managing director, said there were two main reasons for the expected increase in total household use of water. One was the growing use of appliances such as dishwashers and the other the growing number of households. More people were living alone, which meant that the number of households was going up even though the population was almost unchanged.

'Heroin' drug tastes nice

It was "not inconceivable" that a baby could have helped herself to an overdose of a heroin substitute, a forensic scientist told the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Simone Russell, aged 15 months, died of a massive overdose of methadone, a green liquid, in February last year. Her heroin addict parents, Andrew and Marion Russell, deny manslaughter and child cruelty.

The prosecution, has alleged that the Russells, both aged 36, unemployed, of Larkhill Estate, Stockwell, south London, admitted to police they gave their daughter dummies dipping in methadone to quieten her during teething troubles.

But Dr John Taylor, a drug specialist with the Metropolitan Police, said it was unlikely that the child got all of the drug from her dummy.

Question mark over first Briton in space

The destruction of the space shuttle Challenger must raise a question mark over whether the first Briton will now be able to go into space in June, as planned, even though he is scheduled to make his flight in the other shuttle vehicle, Columbia. The Ministry of Defence said last night that it was too early to say how this flight would be affected.

Squadron Leader Nigel Wood, and his back-up, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Farmon, were due to fly out to NASA headquarters at Houston, Texas this week for a four month training course culminating in the flight in June during which a British military communications satellite is scheduled to be launched.

A second satellite flight carrying a British payload is scheduled for January 1987. Commander Peter Longhurst has been selected to make that flight, with Mr Christopher Holmes, a Ministry of Defence civilian specialist, as his possible substitute.

The Ministry of Defence said that the four members of the British team had sent a telex message of sympathy to NASA. The astronauts said: "We are greatly saddened by the tragic loss of life at the Kennedy Space Centre and the deepest sympathy is extended to the wives and families of the shuttle crew."

They said that the full circumstances of the accident were still not known and therefore its impact on the Skynet programme could not be determined.

Squadron Leader Wood was selected to make the first flight last April after all four candidates had undergone extensive training in Britain and the United States.

Apart from putting the Skynet-4 communications satellite into orbit it had been hoped that six British space experiments would be conducted during the week long flight in June.

There was considerable disappointment in Europe when Britain first elected to use the shuttle to put Skynet into orbit. It had been hoped that Britain would have chosen to use the European space vehicle, Ariadne.

The British astronaut team was waiting for a full picture before making a complete statement, but team spokesman Sam Henney said: "Obviously we are devastated by this news, it is a loss of life."

The team will hold a press briefing at the Ministry of Defence today before setting off from RAF Brize Norton later this week for final training.

Squadron Leader Wood, a father of two, was chosen for the prestige mission last April. He joined the RAF in 1968 and worked with the US Air Force in California for three years.

Meanwhile, Lloyd's of London, which insures some space satellites, said the shuttle was insured by Nasa, and initial indications were that none of the satellite equipment on board had been insured by Lloyd's.

Fatness is blamed on genes

By Pearce Wright Science Editor

The latest medical research contains some bad news and some good news about fatness. The bad news is that your fate is determined at birth.

The most important thing that decides your silhouette, ranging from marked thinness to marked fatness, is your genes.

The discovery was made by looking at a group of 540 young adults, all of whom had been adopted.

Measurements were made of their body fat, and this gave a body weight index. Individuals were then divided into four groups, from very thin to very fat.

The researchers found a close relationship between the index for the individuals and their natural biological parents. But in every case there was no link between parents and their adopted children.

The details are reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Previous attempts to explore links between fatness, genetics and upbringing relied on looking at twins.

The results were inconclusive. The findings are described as unequivocal. They showed clearly that a tendency to get fat is inherited. The fact that obesity is biologically determined is very bad news. It could mean that attempts to control it by diet and behavioural therapy are bound to be a waste of time.

The better news comes in other results reported in the journal. New data go into the influence of genetic factors has been made, doctors are beginning to understand why attempts to control weight have had such a varied response.

Moreover, there are some non-genetic influences which are clearly identified.

They were demonstrated in additional research by Dr A. Scarami with thin and fat rats. Naturally thin rats could be made to grow fat by feeding them on a high-fat diet or a "cafeteria" diet of snack foods.

When they were switched back to the normal diet, they lost their fat. But the genetically fat ones put on weight even when they were sustained on normal well-balanced foods.

Labour holds fire on Militants

The Labour Party agreed in the High Court yesterday not to expel members of the Liverpool Labour Party at today's meeting of the party's national executive.

The NEC is to receive an interim report by the inquiry team looking into allegations that the Liverpool District Party has been taken over by supporters of the Militant Tendency.

At the High Court yesterday, four leading members of the Liverpool Party, headed by the President, Mr Tony Mulhearn, sought an injunction requiring the party to observe its rules and give those accused of belonging to Militant a chance to defend themselves.

But after a four-hour private hearing before Mr Justice Gatchewski, the group withdrew their injunction application.

Mr Mulhearn said he had decided to halt the hearing after the party's national secretary, Mr Larry Whitty, told the judge that no alleged member of Militant would be expelled without being given a hearing.

Mr Mulhearn said: "We have secured something today which we should have secured a long time ago. All we have ever sought is that we should be treated fairly."

The lawyers for the Liverpool group, which comprised Mr Mulhearn, Terry Harrison, Vice-President, Felicity Dowling, secretary and John Hamilton, treasurer, said they would come back to court if disciplinary moves were made as a result of the interim report.

Labour's inquiry into the Militant-dominated Liverpool party has been extended by at least a month.

Further claims of alleged intimidation and corruption by Militant supporters were published yesterday in the left-wing *Chartist* magazine.

In its evidence to the inquiry, the Merseyside Labour Co-ordinating Committee says verbal abuse is commonplace. physical threats have been made and the council's static security force at party meetings frightened Militant critics.

The committee said Militant councillors had labelled their opponents: "Rats, cretins, wimps, friends of the Tories, and enemies of the working class."

Drink charge man found dead

A man facing a drink driving charge was found dead in his home yesterday while police outside were waiting for him to change his clothes.

Two officers entered the house in Green Lane, Caldicot, Gwent, and found the body of Mr Paul Grear, aged 29, after hearing a shot as they stood in the street.

They had accompanied him from Chepstow police station to his home to allow him to change his clothes before appearing at magistrates' court.

هكذا من الفضل

'Space exploration not just for astronauts'

Teacher won fatal flight in competition

By Our Foreign Staff

Mrs Sharon Christa McAuliffe, the civilian "astronaut" who won a place on yesterday's ill-fated launch in competition against teachers throughout the United States, had said she hoped to "humanize the technology of the space age" for her students.

"I still can't believe they are actually going to let me go up in the shuttle," she said in September as she pinned on her National Aeronautics and Space Administration identification badge.

Mrs McAuliffe was named in July as the winner among 11,000 teachers who had applied to be the first educator in orbit.

"I want to demystify Nasa and space flight," she said during competition among the 10 teacher finalists in Houston, Texas. "I want students to see and understand the special perspective of space and relate it to them."

Her parents stared in utter disbelief as they watched the

shuttle explode and fall into the Atlantic. Then they wept.

Mr Edward Corrigan, and his wife, Grace, of Framingham, Massachusetts, watched the launch from a VIP viewing site three miles from launch pad 39B.

They cheered with the rest of the crowd as Challenger lifted off the pad and soared skyward. But their smiles and cheers turned to horror as the spacecraft blew apart about two minutes after launch.

A hushed, chilled silence fell over the watching crowd. "Oh, my God," said one woman. "No! No! No!" pleaded another.

With looks of shock, Mr and Mrs Corrigan watched as a bright orange ball of flame shot from the shuttle. They continued to stare skyward in disbelief.

Crying, the grieving parents hugged and kept looking toward the sky. They said nothing. Friends consoled them and Nasa officials shielded them from other spectators.

Finally, after several endless minutes of staring at the fading contrails, the Corrigans, red-eyed and stunned, were led away by friends and Nasa officials.

Through all Mrs McAuliffe's training, her husband, Steven, a lawyer, and their children, Scott, aged 9, and Caroline, 6, had stayed at home in Concord, New Hampshire. She said recently that Scott understood what she was doing, but that Caroline called occasionally to ask: "Mom, are you in space yet?"

Mrs McAuliffe, aged 37, taught in primary school for nine years before joining Concord High School as a teacher in economics, history, and law three years ago. She said in her application to Nasa that she would like to record her trip to help



The five crew and two specialists who lost their lives on Challenger. (from front left) Michael Smith, Francis Scobee and Ronald McNair with (from back left) Ellison Onizuka, Christa McAuliffe, Gregory Jarvis and Judith Resnik

"humanize the technology of the space age" through the observations of a non-astronaut.

"I want to demystify Nasa and space flight," she said. "The astronauts are not really connecting with the average student in the classroom. I want students to see and understand the special perspective of space and relate it to them."

In an interview days before launch, she said she was "not naive enough to think that I am the best in my profession."

"I happen to be from a small state that didn't have as many applicants as California, for example. There's a lot of luck in being at the right place at the right time."

Students at her high school in Concord, New Hampshire,

cheered her launch widely yesterday, then sat in stunned silence as the shuttle exploded.

made such a big thing about it. Everyone's watching her and she gets killed."

On the streets of Concord, people gathered in front of television sets in Main Street storefronts and looked at the launch in silent horror. At the State House, word of the launch quickly filtered through the halls.

Earlier in the day, the school's 1200 students wore party hats and blared noisemakers in preparation for the launch.

Mrs McAuliffe's woman companion on the ill-fated flight was an astronaut, Dr Judith Resnik, who was one of the three mission specialists.

Born on April 5, 1949, she

has a PhD in electrical engineering from the University of Maryland. She became an astronaut in 1978. During an earlier mission had helped to deploy three communications satellites.

The space craft commander was Francis Scobee. Born in May 1939, he became a Nasa astronaut in 1978. He was a combat pilot during the Vietnam war and had logged more than 6,500 hours in 45 types of aircraft. He piloted a shuttle flight in 1984.

Michael Smith, a US Navy commander, was the Challenger pilot. Born on April 30, 1945, he became an astronaut in 1980. He was on the USS Kitty Hawk during the Vietnam war and was awarded the Navy Distinguished Flying Cross and other medals.

Ronald McNair, a mission specialist, had a PhD in physics. He conducted research on electro-optic laser modulation for satellite-to-satellite space communications, and was on a previous shuttle mission which deployed two communications satellites.

Ellison Onizuka, a lieutenant colonel in the US Air Force, is a mission specialist who became an astronaut in 1978. Born in June 24, 1946, in Hawaii, he received high degrees in aerospace engineering from the University of Colorado.

Gregory Jarvis, a payload specialist, was born on August 24, 1944. He received a BSc degree in electrical engineering, and had worked on advanced tactical communications satellites.



A shocked Betsy Corrigan, Christa McAuliffe's sister.



The Ford Escort Ghia being produced for March launch

Ford to offer anti-lock brakes on new Escort

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The replacement for the Ford Escort, Britain's biggest selling car, will be the first small family car to be offered with a cheap anti-lock braking system developed by a British company and new fuel saving "lean burn" engines.

Production of the new Escort and its sister model the Orion has begun at Ford's Halewood plant on Merseyside ready for a public launch early in March. The main change in the car's appearance is a new Sierra type, streamlined front half.

But anti-lock brakes will not be standard equipment as on the new Granada.

Prices will not be announced until much nearer the launch date but I understand that the anti-lock will cost an extra £300.

New 1.4 and 1.6 litre "lean burn" engines being manufactured at Bridgend, South Wales, will operate with an air to fuel ratio of 18:1 compared with the more normal 14:1. Ford claims it reduces consumption by up to 11 per cent.

Cheaper petrol by weekend

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Petrol prices are set to tumble, with one of the big oil companies predicting that by the weekend motorists will be paying as much as 5p a gallon less.

The fall in the price of crude oil, which has dropped by more than \$10 a barrel this year, has given the big companies more room for manoeuvre than at any time since the early 1970s, although the full benefit of the price fall in world oil markets cannot be passed on because much of it has been cancelled by the drop in the value of the pound.

Current posted prices are 198.1p a gallon for four star, but few motorists are paying the full price.

Some supermarket filling stations are charging 189.5p a gallon and in the South-east the average price is 187p.

BP has led the way with cuts of more than 4p a gallon in the price of home heating oil.

Doctors call for tobacco tax rise

By Nicholas Timmins

Two hundred health, church and community service organizations, including the British Medical Association called yesterday for a "significant" increase in tobacco tax to stop young children from smoking and to encourage adults to give up the habit.

With the Budget due in March, the organizations pointed out that in 1984 tobacco taxes were raised above inflation.

Government-commissioned research shows that

smoking among school-children is "alarmingly high", with 41 per cent of 16-year-olds smoking, compared with 36 per cent of adult men and 32 per cent of women. The figures also suggest under-age smoking may be increasing.

Children are estimated to spend more than £70 million a year on cigarettes. But with average pocket money at £1.09 and a packet of twenty costing about £1.36, a big increase will help deter under-age smoking, the

organizations maintain.

A petition backing higher cigarette prices was handed to the Chancellor yesterday. It is backed by 100 health authorities, 50 health education departments and organizations ranging from the Boys' Brigade to the British Cardiac Society.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, is understood to have also pressed Mr Nigel Lawson for a significant increase above inflation.

Jobs for few in 'silent service'

By Tim Jones

Far from the madding crowd worthwhile jobs beckon for those who wish to turn their backs on the tribulations of modern living.

But inevitably there are drawbacks for one condition is that successful applicants must take a vow of silence and arise long before dawn to worship God.

The "vacancies" exist on Caldy Island off the west Wales coast where the community of Costerian monks fear that their monastery may die out unless at least eight new novices come

forward to increase their numbers.

Father Robert, the abbot, said yesterday: "I suppose there is a danger of us dying out unless new people receive the call from God and come forward. Our average age is over 60 and our way of life appears to be less attractive ever since it became fashionable in the 1960s to be opposed to anything institutionalized."

New recruits will be expected to learn how to make a wide variety of produce which has established the Order as

unique in Europe. The 15 monks produce cream from their dairy herd, yogurt, perfume and tourist souvenirs to finance their simple way of life. They also run a farm, post office and a school.

Three young novices who arrived on the island last year helped to compensate for the death of three of the monks but several more are needed if the monastery is to survive.

Father Robert said that the rewards were simply the labour of love and serving God and the Catholic Church.

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AIR CALL

Thatcher refuses to expand on Westland

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, refused during Commons questions to elaborate on the statement she gave yesterday on the Westland affair.

Asked repeatedly by the Opposition if there had been any reference in the report of the inquiry into the leak to differences of understanding between civil servants she insisted the accuracy of all the facts in her statement had been checked with all those concerned and she had nothing to add.

Mr Roger Liversidge (Beecham and Radnor, L) opening the exchanges, asked: In view of the failure over the leak of the Government's letter, will the Prime Minister not agree that now is the time to institute a Freedom of Information Act? (Loud laughter)

Mrs Thatcher: No, Mr James Lamond (Oldham Central and Royton, Lab): When the Prime Minister received the report last week from the Cabinet Secretary about the leak, did it in that report make reference to a difference of understanding among civil servants?

Mrs Thatcher: In my speech yesterday I set out the full circumstances. The accuracy was checked with all those concerned.

Mr Alexander Carlisle (Montgomery, L): On January 20 this year, late in the evening, the Prime Minister or someone acting on her behalf telephoned Miss Collette Bowe. Miss Bowe was sitting in her London club.

The Prime Minister told us yesterday who authorized the leak of the Solicitor General's letter of January 22. Will she tell the House what was said during this telephone conversation with Miss Bowe?

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Leon Brittan said yesterday he could and did confirm the statement which I made was correct with regard to all the facts in his knowledge. I have nothing else to add.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition: If a Department of State seeks agreement from the Prime Minister's office and gets acceptance, is not that acceptance acquiescence? Can there really be any misunderstanding about that?

Mrs Thatcher: I made a very full statement yesterday. I have nothing further to say.

Mr Kinnock: If there is no dispute, if there is no disagreement, if there is no refusal, if there is no objection, is not acceptance of a request for agreement acquiescence? Will the Prime Minister give a straightforward answer to a very straightforward question? Yes or no?

Mrs Thatcher: I do not share his view of a straightforward question. I have nothing further to add.

Mr Michael Colvin (Romsey and Waterside, C): Her time would be better spent getting back to proper matters of state rather than listening to the waffle on Westland from the windbag opposite.

Yesterday she was found guilty of two things - tolerance and loyalty to officials and Cabinet colleagues. With faults like that, who needs qualities?

Mrs Thatcher: My time is spent in dealing with the great strategic matters and the political issues of the times that must be solved.

Mr Ronald Davies (Caerphilly, Lab): Does not the Prime Minister think that the best deployment of the polygraph, the lie detector, would not be at GCHQ Cheltenham but at Downing Street?

Poorer people getting personal pensions

For the first time, people were being given the right to a personal pension, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said in the second reading of the Social Security Bill. At present, some 11 million people had the advantage of their own pension scheme, but another 10 million were without a scheme of their own and would like to have one.

The vast majority of people in this country wanted a pension of their own. The Bill tried to give them that right and that encouragement. The Government was also concerned to encourage the spread of occupational pension schemes where there was substantial scope for expansion.

The Bill provided an alternative route to an occupational pension. Basically it enabled pension schemes based on a defined level of contribution to contract out of the state earnings-related scheme. A contribution test rather than an opened benefit test would be an inducement to employers to set up schemes.

The cost of the state earnings-related scheme was set to increase sharply. It was borne not by a fund which had been invested but entirely on a pay as you go basis by the contributors at the time young people now starting on their careers. The ration of those contributors to pensioners worsened - there would be an increase of 3.5 million pensioners between the year 2003 and 2033 while the contributing workforce remained the same.

If the plans continued unchanged the decisions of future governments would inevitably be preempted. For example, if they wished to devote more resources to caring for the elderly through the health or social services the public retirement age would be already committed.

That kind of debt should not be handed down to future generations and for that reason the Government had modified the state scheme so that the emerging cost was reduced.

Ready for Uganda evacuation

Britain stood ready to provide assistance for the evacuation of the foreign community from Uganda should this become necessary, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during Commons questions.

There appeared to be no immediate need for such an evacuation and the High Commissioner had reported that British citizens in Kampala were safe and the airport was expected to open soon to normal traffic.

She was replying to Sir Fergus Montgomery (Aldridge and Salford, C) who had asked for an assurance that the Government would do everything possible to protect the safety of British nationals in Uganda, following the very successful evacuation of Aden on the Royal yacht Britannia.

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, welcomed the prospect of an end to the damaging disruption of the teachers' dispute and said she deeply deplored the strikes.

During questions in the Commons she said she was deeply disturbed that the National Union of Teachers were not part of the Acs negotiations and she hoped they would consider they might adopt the Acs solution.

She was replying to Mr Andrew Bowden (Brighton and Hove, C) who had spoken of the growing anger among parents at the refusal of the NUT to negotiate and asked Mrs Thatcher to condemn the planned strikes which could only do great damage to the education of children.

Minister pours scorn on 'nanny' Labour

The Government did not share the Opposition's enthusiasm for a great big nanny state, Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister for Health, said when he was questioned in the Commons about progress in implementing the recommendations of the second report of the Social Services Committee on community care.

Mr David Heathcoat-Amory (Wells, C): The committee's report recognized that the fashion for community care had in some respects gone too far. Many mental patients have a need for continuing institutional care and should not be placed in the community, as alluring as that phrase may sound.

Mr Hayhoe: A proper balance must be struck. Generally speaking the move from institutional to community care is desirable.

Mr Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on health and social security, how can the Government seriously claim to believe in community care when tens of thousands of severely disabled people will lose between £40 and £50 a week under the Social Security Bill and as a result will be forced out of their own homes into institutions at far higher cost to the state, Mr Hayhoe: His comments are most revealing. He apparently believes that where people are going about their lives as normal citizens, as the normal civilized behaviour of being concerned about members of their own family in need of care, that responsibility should be devolved on to the state.

Teacher dispute

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Australia Bill

The Australia Bill, which terminates the power of Parliament to legislate for Australia, was read the third time in the House of Lords and passed.

Baker's plan to replace rates



Baker: Modest changes

The Government favoured the introduction of a community charge to replace domestic rates, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced when making a statement on the Green Paper on rate reform in the Commons.

The changes proposed in the Green Paper would be modest for most people and the shift to the new tax would be gradual and manageable in terms of household incomes, he said. Some people would be paying local taxes who presently pay nothing. But those living on their own who presently pay more than their fair share, including many of the poorest households, would be better off.

Dr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on environment, claimed the proposals would be a tax on the right to vote. He accused the Prime Minister (Mrs Margaret Thatcher) of flouting her promise to abolish the rating system. He also said the proposals would lead to higher charges for many businesses.

Mr Baker said: The central theme is the need to bolster local democratic accountability. To do so we need a way of pay for local government which narrows the gap which exists between those who use, those who vote for and those who pay for local government services.

He said the three weaknesses in the present system were: the distribution of local tax burdens between authorities; the way in which businesses could be heavily taxed to pay for excessive local spending; and the unfair burden on households of the domestic rates.

Business and commercial ratepayers (he said) paid 60% of the local tax bill but have no vote to influence local decisions. For businesses, rates are uncontrollable overhead costs which can and do vary from year to year very significantly.

Increased business rates lead to higher costs, lower pay or job prospects. Those who are ultimately affected are quite unaware of how these extra burdens arise. For all these reasons non-domestic rates should not be a local tax. We propose that a uniform non-domestic rate poundage should be set centrally. Businesses will be protected by indexing the poundage to inflation so that they can predict their liability with confidence.

He said transitional arrangements would be needed for an orderly move to the new system. The Government was setting in hand a revaluation of all non-domestic properties so that new rates would be available from April 1990.

A new two-part grant structure was proposed to replace the present unstable and complex arrangements, he said. A needs grant to compensate authorities for their different needs. A standard grant, to reduce local tax bills by a standard amount per adult. Both grants would be fixed in cash in advance for the year in question so local councils would know where they stood. This would remove the whole paraphernalia of schedules, tapers, multipliers and close ending. (Laughter)

These arrangements (he went on) would provide the clearest possible relationship between changes in spending and changes in tax bills.

Every extra pound spent will be met in full by local domestic taxpayers. Of these, three million had their bill met in full by housing benefit. In many authorities well over 50% of the voters paid no local rates and so had little interest in restraining spending by the local authority. Indeed they had a clear interest that it should spend more.

Rates were unpopular because their burden was carried on too few shoulders and not widely and fairly. The three alternatives were a sales tax; a local income tax; or a flat-rate community charge. The Green Paper set out the many

difficulties in both the sales tax and local income tax and the reasons why the Government preferred a community charge. It would be more closely linked to the use of local services and would give all adults a stake in local spending decisions.

Each local authority would set its own charge and there would have to be registers of all adults. The registers would be entirely separate from the electoral register. This would lead to the same local tax bill for the same standard of service in all areas. That would lead to significant changes in the distribution of local tax burdens between authorities. There would have to be transitional and safety net arrangements.

In England and Wales (he went on) the community charge would start at a low level with a corresponding cut in rates. The whole burden of any increased spending would fall on the community charge from the start so that a clear link would exist between higher spending and higher community charges. In subsequent years there would be further transfers from rates to the community charge. In some areas rates would disappear within three years and they would be eliminated in all areas within ten years.

There were also plans to reform the capital control system on which he was inviting comments.

The proposals (he continued) amount to the most thorough reform of local government finance this century. It is right there should be a substantial period of consultation. We have asked for comments by July 31. The Secretary of State for Scotland will be making a statement tomorrow (Wednesday). The pace of further developments in England and Wales will depend on the outcome of the consultation process.

The message from our studies is clear - the way we now pay for local government undermines local accountability. This is no basis on which to run democratic local government. It has drawn central government deeper into conflict with local government.

He said the present path led to closer central involvement in local affairs. Instead the Government could face up to the weaknesses in the present arrangements and provide local government with a financial system to bolster local democracy. The Government preferred this course.

Dr Cunningham said the Labour Party was prepared to accept a genuine attempt to increase local accountability and to return to local government the freedoms and local democratic control which had been consistently eroded during the seven years of Conservative administration.

The community charge proposal was a tax on the right to vote. No other western industrialized democracy imposed such a grossly unfair system as a basis of a major source of local government income. The Government had rejected this proposal in 1983 as bureaucratic and expensive. What had happened to change its mind?

The business rate system proposed would be a further huge centralization of power which would undermine local

accountability. Would this not mean higher business rates for many Tory-controlled authorities?

Is not this exercise (he said) a vain attempt to redeem the pledges of the Prime Minister and provides a cloak of obscurity for the failure of her administration for seven years?

Mr Baker said the Labour Party would have to come out and say which system of local government finance it would support.

From Dr Cunningham's comments he concluded he favoured the retention of the rating system.

Under these proposals 80% of single pensioners would face lower bills; 80% of single adult households would pay less; and businesses in the north, the Midlands and the north west would have lower bills.

Mr John Hadden (Mid Staffordshire, C) said the introduction of a community charge might just create some winners and some losers. To avoid that possibility of regression, would Mr Baker extend the consultation period beyond July 31?

Mr Baker said the local authority associations had already represented to him that they would like a longer time than July 31. He was prepared to consider this but would not extend it beyond October.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) asked why Mr Baker was serious about no taxation without representation. The Government had not brought in the concept of local income tax which was extremely successful in Sweden. The Government was proposing to put further burdens on the shoulders of ordinary working people and not those who could really afford to pay.

The proposals for registration were leading to a situation where there would be criminal sanctions against people who for various reasons might decide not to register.

Mr Baker said the Government had looked at the various alternative proposals for local income tax. All were administratively very complex and all would require a register as did the community charge. Many people would welcome the prospect of uncontrolled capacity to raise local income tax left in the hands of Mr Bernie Grant and Mr Derek Hinton under whom it would be confiscatory.

Mr Charles Morrison (Devizes, C) asked if there any interim short-term proposals which would help to ensure that shire counties in particular to accept a genuine attempt to increase local accountability and to return to local government the freedoms and local democratic control which had been consistently eroded during the seven years of Conservative administration.

Mr Baker said his point. There would have to be transitional arrangements, even before this starts to avoid the sort of debate we had last week which I do not want to have again.

Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C) said that local authorities would not have been elected, if there had been a closer relationship between those who voted and those who pay.

The broadening of the tax base was welcome. The Government's proposals represented a great advance in the equity of taxation.

Mr Baker said it was difficult for a local elector to



Geoffrey Smith

The apparently endless Westland saga has now entered its third phase. The first one centred on the future of the company, the American versus the European option. The second phase saw public attention switch from the company to the conduct of ministers. Mr Brittan and the Lygo interview, Mrs Thatcher and the Solicitor-General's letter.

But the controversy has moved on, with Mr Brittan's resignation and Monday's debate in the House of Commons. This does not mean that Mrs Thatcher has provided a totally convincing explanation. There are a number of points which are still at the least perplexing. But the nature of the political threat that she now faces is different.

Her speech on Monday was sufficient to avoid a political cataclysm. That is not surprising. Conservative MPs wanted to believe in her explanation for their own political security as much as for hers. She would have had to do very badly to disappoint them.

Authority issue still a question

As it was, she produced a number of new facts with her customary force and deft performance. But was it enough to meet the new insidious danger that she now faces: the progressive erosion of her authority?

That will depend, I believe, upon two factors. The first is whether any disconcerting new facts emerge. Nothing has contributed more to the impression of a cover-up than the slow, piecemeal, reluctant disclosure of what happened.

At every stage such frankness as there has been has been forced upon the Government. There has also been another unpleasant twist to the saga which has compelled ministers to revise or develop their explanations.

But if nothing further emerges to undermine Mrs Thatcher's explanation, the details of Westland will cease to be so important. It will be the broader judgment of public opinion that will matter.

Party awaiting public's verdict

Up to now it has been widely claimed by Conservatives that the general public are not interested in the Westland furore. That, I believe, is half true.

Certainly the letters have not been pouring in to MPs from their constituents. The choice between the European and the American options is not the favourite topic of conversation at every bus stop.

But the clash of personalities is a different matter. The rows between Mr Heseltine and Mr Brittan, the Lygo meeting, the entry of the Solicitor-General, the mystery of Mrs Thatcher's role - all these have had the peculiar fascination for many people who are not entranced by the manufacture of helicopters.

The critical question now is what conclusions they draw from the whole affair. I doubt if Mrs Thatcher has anything more to fear from a direct immediate assault from within her own party. Conservatives have closed ranks.

But they will not be oblivious to the attitude of the electorate. They would prefer to unite behind her. But what if the Fulham by-election is humiliating, if the local elections in May are disastrous, if the party's fortunes continue to sag in the opinion polls?

If the Conservatives were to suffer such a series of misfortunes, they would then begin to wonder if the Prime Minister's appeal to the country had been diminished beyond recovery. It would be at that stage that speculation might well revive as to whether they would do better under another leader.

I do not think it likely that Mrs Thatcher will now be forced to give up office directly because of Westland. She has overcome the immediate hurdle in securing the allegiance of Conservative backbenchers.

But because of Westland it will be harder for her to hold on if there is a general loss of confidence in her leadership. She is no longer invulnerable.

Reform of council rates

Community charge aim to give voters more control

By Colin Hughes, Local Government Correspondent

By abolishing rates and replacing them with a new "community charge", the Government aims to place control over local government spending more directly in the hands of voters.

The Green Paper published yesterday claims in a preface that it's proposals "amount to the most radical restructuring of local government finance this century", which could "provide both a new impetus to local democracy, and a much fairer basis of taxation".

Environment ministers have concluded that "effective local accountability must be the cornerstone", believing that the burden of rates is carried unevenly and unfairly, and that government grant is too complicated for voters to understand.

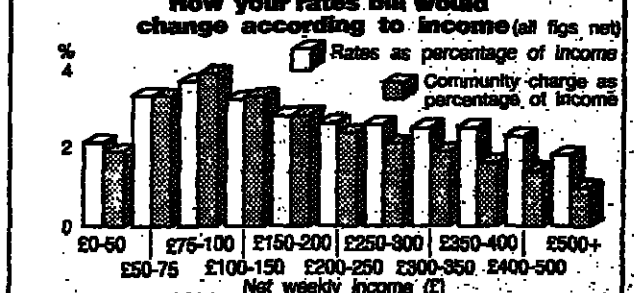
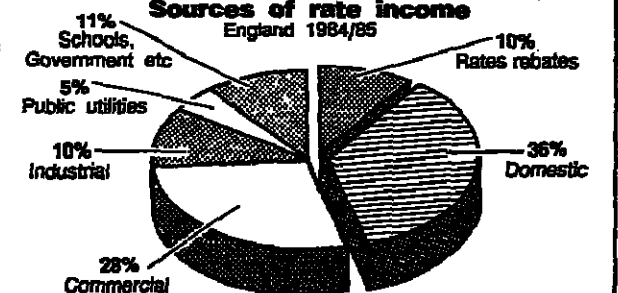
On top of that, businesses and institutions to which local councillors are not directly answerable, pay the bulk of local rates. For every extra £2.50 a local authority spends on average, businesses pay £1.50 against £1 by householders.

Even then, the Government argues, not all local electors pay rates. "The burden of rates is carried on too few shoulders". Only a third of householders pay rates in full. Rebates mean that another 17 per cent pay part or none of their rates, leaving nearly half who pay none, although that includes many who are not earning.

The proposed remedies, which could be effected from the early 1990's, are threefold: a resident's tax to replace rates, a new national business rate, and a simplified system for paying government grant to councils.

The Green Paper's publication represents the Government's final admission that targets and penalties have failed, at huge political cost, to control council spending.

The new business rate will be set nationally to produce the same yield, with the income pooled and redistributed among councils, according to the number of adults in their area. The Government hopes to wipe out the



wide variations in costs to commerce and industry around the country. To avoid accusations that it is taking yet more control into its hands, the levy will be fixed and increased annually on an inflation-linked index.

In preparation, it was announced that business premises will be revalued by April 1990 (the last revaluation was in 1973). Together, the changes will mean premises in high rates areas, often with high unemployment, will gain. Revaluation will increase rate bills of new shops by up to 50 per cent, while bills for pre-1919 factories and warehouses will fall by up to 40 per cent.

To cope with that shift,

two-adult households seeing little change in their bills during the first year, when each adult would pay £50, and the rest as rates. Each year following the proportion would increase, so that householders now paying low rate bills might pay the community charge wholly within three years.

On present council spending, the lowest community charge would be around £90 per adult, up to £400 in some London boroughs, but 90 per cent would pay between £100 and £200, or an average of about £160. The move would double the numbers paying local taxes.

In other words, 51 per cent

of homes would be better off, another 24 per cent would lose by less than £1 a week, and 15 per cent more than £2 a week. Students who may not pay rates now would have to pay the charge.

The proposal to replace complex grants with a standard grant and a grant based on need would mean shire counties gaining, while north-east industrial cities lose. The safety nets would switch about £330million from East Anglia to the North, and about £470million from the South-east to London, to redress the balance during transition, and prevent community charge and rates soaring.

Although the broad plan

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Where and how to try Walesa tests Warsaw's resolve

The crucial question of how and where Mr Lech Walesa should stand trial is now at the heart of the Polish authorities' sharpening campaign against the former Solidarity leader.

He is to face charges of slandering Polish voting commissions by declaring that the Government inflated the turnout figures in October's parliamentary election.

The 1983 Nobel Peace laureate has never before been taken to court by the authorities and the outlawed Solidarity trade union sees the case as breaking an important political taboo. He faces the possibility of a two-year jail sentence or a hefty fine, but the real significance of the trial is that it will end his apparent immunity from prosecution.

According to a summons delivered at the Walesa home on Monday, he should be tried in the Gdansk provincial court between February 11 and 18. But Mr Jacek Taylor, his lawyer, has protested that as a first offender Mr Walesa should only be tried in a smaller district court.

The Government spokesman, Mr Jerzy Urban, said yesterday that the protest would be considered by the

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

authorities if it were submitted in writing. Clearly the tussle over how and when and where will continue for some time.

Since being freed from internment in 1982, Mr Walesa has been hemmed in by a series of investigations, ranging from charges of dodging customs duties to helping to organize protest strikes. None of these cases has come to court, though they have had the effect of hampering his movements outside Gdansk. He has become afraid of accepting invitations to travel abroad lest he be stripped of his Polish citizenship while outside the country.

The Warsaw authorities have decided to move against him now for several reasons. The first is that credibility of parliamentary elections is central to Poland's attempt to re-establish its international standing. The high (79 per cent) turnout claimed by the authorities was supposed to indicate that the country has broadly accepted government policies and the need to act through its official institutions.

Government advisers also seem to have calculated that Western outrage at a trial of Mr Walesa would be relatively muted now that some

five years have passed since the Solidarity revolution. The US State Department says that the charges are "politically motivated".

● VIENNA: Representatives of Western banks and officials of Poland's Bank Handlowy and the Warsaw Government yesterday started talks on the country's \$30 billion foreign debt and perhaps on new rescheduling terms (AP reports).

Mr Gabriel Eichler, director general of Bank of America's Vienna branch, said during a break that the Poles had started presenting the economic and financial situation but had not yet submitted any request for easier conditions.

The session was preceded by a meeting on Monday of the banks involved, and negotiations were expected to end late yesterday or today. He said that commercial bank credits amounted to between \$6 billion and \$6.5 billion, most of it to western governments.

Of the overall sum, between \$5 billion and \$6 billion would be due during 1986, he said, suggesting that figures vary according to changes in the exchange rates.

Ugandans flee into Kenya

Kampala (UPI) - More than 8,000 Ugandans have crossed the border into neighbouring Kenya in advance of retreating government forces routed by National Resistance Army rebels who now control two-thirds of the country, border officials said yesterday.

Diplomats in Kampala said NRA units had secured the strategically important town of Jinja, 45 miles east of Kampala and were now pursuing defeated government troops towards the Kenyan border.

Jinja was an important objective of the NRA because it controls the Owen Falls dam, the only power source for Kampala and western Uganda.

NRA officials said their forces have captured up to 7,000 government troops, or about half the Ugandan Army, since the siege of Kampala began in earnest on January 17.

Kenyan border officials said 5,000 civilians had crossed the border point at Busia near Tororo in the past two days and another 3,000 at Malaba, about 200 miles north-west of the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.

In Kampala, life was returning to normal with shops and businesses reopening and civilians greeting NRA troops with handshakes, flowers and hugs, but in the north the Army was in disarray with inter-tribal clashes reported between army units.



A captured Ugandan soldier, his wrists bound, being guarded by an NRA guerrilla.

France to have new TV channel

Paris - Anxious to efface the bad impression created by the concession of France's first private television channel to a Franco-Italian partnership, the Government announced yesterday the concession of a second private channel to an all-French partnership (Diana Geddes writes).

The channel, which will be devoted largely to music, is due to start broadcasting before the end of February.

M. Georges Filloud, the Minister for Communications, said the concession for what will be France's sixth television channel has been granted to "four great French figures in the communications world" - the Gaumont Cinema group; the local private radio station, NRJ; the Publicis advertising agency; and the Gilbert Gross advertising agency.

At least half the new channel's programmes will be devoted to music, including a required minimum quota of French made programmes.

Bubbly bottles by the million

Paris - A record 195 million bottles of champagne were sold throughout the world last year, with Britain taking the lead as the number one foreign buyer with 15 million bottles, ahead of the US with 14 million, and Germany with 8.5 million (Diana Geddes writes).

But France remained by far the biggest consumer of its own champagne, accounting for 133 million bottles sold last year.

Hospital row

Athens (AFP) - About 40,000 public hospital nurses, administrators and laboratory technicians in Greece began a 24-hour strike to press demands for the formal hiring of half the members of their trade federation, to prevent them from working in public hospitals on private contracts.

Better late...

Poland (AP) - Poland's postal service has set a new record for tardiness by taking seven years to deliver Christmas greetings a distance of 20.5 miles, from the southern city of Opole to the nearby town of Strzelce Opolskie.

Death's irony

Jakarta (AFP) - An Indonesian MP died in a road accident on his way home after winning a two-day battle in the regional Assembly to secure funds for his local city hospital to buy a hearse.

Chilly Capri

Capri (AP) - The Isle of Capri, famed since the earliest days of the Roman Empire for its sunny skies and azure Mediterranean waters, has had its first snowfall in 20 years.

Tests for Aids

Tokyo (UPI) - The US Navy has started systematic testing of sailors stationed in Japan for exposure to Aids under a Pentagon programme that will eventually test all military personnel on active duty.

Pure Nights

Cairo (AP) - The Morals Court of Appeal has overturned a lower court ruling confiscating an edition of the *Thousand and One Nights* on grounds the book is a Middle Eastern classic, not a "sex book".

Pigeon panic

Peking (Reuters) - Farmers are flocking to Shanghai by cart, boat and bicycle to sell grain on the booming black market in food for a million pet pigeons, according to the *China Daily*.

Alien reprieve

Madrid (Reuters) - Spain is giving thousands of illegal residents an extra month to put their papers in order or face expulsion. The new deadline is March 1.

UN envoy

Managua (AFP) - Señora Nora Astorga, lawyer, diplomat and former guerrilla, has been appointed Nicaragua's new Ambassador to the United Nations.

Hockey death

Delhi (AFP) - The coach of a rival team killed a 17-year-old schoolboy with a hockey stick when a violent dispute broke out during a match on roller skates here.

Correction

A photograph of King Penguins which appeared on October 23 was accompanied by a caption saying Taiwanese fishermen had captured them for food. We are asked to point out that the birds were in fact rescued from Japanese trawlers.

Taba key to better relations

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Egypt will not take steps to improve relations with Israel until there has been agreement between the two countries on the terms of reference for the arbitrators who will decide the sovereignty of the tiny seaside resort of Taba on the Gulf of Aqaba.

This was the essential message brought back to Israel yesterday by Mr Ezer Weizman, the Minister without Portfolio who has a special responsibility for relations with Arab countries.

During his special mission to Cairo Mr Weizman twice met President Mubarak and the Foreign Minister, Mr Ismet Abdel Meguid.

Mr Weizman had been sent by Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, to find out exactly the reaction of President Mubarak to the 14-point negotiating document agreed by the National Coalition Government for settling the differences between the two countries.

Senior Officials from the Prime Minister's office and the Foreign Ministry are due to go to Cairo to try to fix the terms of reference for the arbitrators. Mr Weizman will report to Mr Peres, who returns from a European tour today that agreement on this can still open the way to full negotiations and to a summit meeting with President Mubarak to seal peace between the two countries.

● STRASBOURG: President Mubarak called for greater European involvement in the Middle East peace process and the holding of a UN conference on terrorism when he addressed the Council of Europe assembly here yesterday (AFP reports).

Mr Mubarak was in Strasbourg on the first leg of a European tour which will include talks with President Mitterrand in Paris and with West Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Bonn today.

Mr Mubarak, the first Arab leader to address the 21-nation Council of Europe, said Europe could play an active role in preparing an international Middle East Peace conference. He believed this would be the best guarantee against the polarization of forces.

Syria waiting on Gemayel decision

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

With their own Christian Phalangist protégé safely installed in the mountains above Beirut, the Syrians now hope that President Gemayel will realize the hopelessness of his military and political position by accepting their own "peace plan" for Lebanon and by rejecting those Christian militia leaders who came to his "rescue" earlier this month with a self-styled coup in east Beirut.

Mr Elie Hobeika, the Christian Phalangist who signed the armistice agreement with the Lebanese Muslim militias on December 28 and who was summarily deposed a little more than two weeks later, spent yesterday in his village of Baskinta - scarcely six miles from the President's own home town of Bikfaya - in anticipation of a presidential change of heart. At the same time, former President Suleiman Franjeh, who has long been an ally of Syria, talked ominously in his own mountain retreat of Zghorta of deposing Gemayel.

Mr Franjeh, an old but not always trusted acolyte of the Syrians, announced that he wanted Mr Gemayel to resign, an aspiration which was chiefly intended to embarrass the President and to provoke him into commenting on Mr Hobeika's demise. Mr Gemayel had tried to force the largely moribund Lebanese Parliament to discuss

the Syrian peace agreement but his efforts failed when - to no-one's surprise - only three ministers attended the Cabinet meeting which was to have referred the matter to the National Assembly.

Among the three was Mr Camille Chamoun, the Maronite Minister of Finance, who complained that Syria's continued military presence in Lebanon could attract Israeli retaliation. In fact, Mr Chamoun's own son Dany has been close to the Israelis for several years, and yesterday's edition of the Beirut pro-Syrian newspaper *Ash Sharq* accused him of trying to transfer Muslim prisoners held in east Beirut to the prison operated in southern Lebanon by Israel's ill-disciplined South Lebanon Army militia.

With their own artillery capable of firing shells into Bikfaya, the Syrians thus seem anxious to give Mr Gemayel time to contemplate his own predicament before launching any new military offensive. Mr Samir Geagea, the Phalangist leader who defeated Mr Hobeika in this month's battles, has already made a visit to Bikfaya. But without Syrian support, the President cannot really hope to preside over any coherent administration nor persuade Muslim ministers to help him. It is Syria which rules Lebanon - and those Lebanese politicians who forget this salient fact do so at their peril.

Paris and Bonn join in tough new approach

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

France and West Germany have used the Stockholm Peace Conference to announce the start of a new, tougher joint international role.

The West German Foreign Minister, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and his French counterpart, M. Roland Dumas, said their appearance in Stockholm was aimed at ushering in a new era of diplomatic co-operation between the two countries.

Herr Genscher said the new joint role emphasized the desire of both countries to "deepen their relationship" and play a positive role in the affairs of Europe and East-West relations. Herr Genscher said: "This is an example of how two nations draw lessons from history."

He said he hoped for concrete results from the conference but warned that nobody should use it to seek "advantage for himself".

Football victory - in court

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

A Spanish court has shaken the world of professional football with a decision, reported here yesterday, that ends - at least for the time being - the buying and selling of players.

Madrid Labour Court ruled that footballers are free to sign with any club they wish once a contract runs out, and that clubs have no right to make transfers or to accept money in return for giving up players.

Representatives of the Spanish Professional Football League intend to appeal to a higher court, but not before a meeting early next month at which representatives of the clubs will work out a collective strategy.

The court made its surprise ruling in a suit brought by the Spanish Footballers' Association, the players' union. The case dealt with a League agreement regulating indemnities intended to be paid between clubs involved in transfer deals.

League officials are concerned because the contracts of several leading and expensive players run out at the end of the season in May. Indeed the appeal is unlikely to be heard for four or five months.

Mission to Uranus

The unlikely star thrills scientists

Pasadena, California (AFP) - Sixteen seconds in which cameras took a stream of pictures have turned Miranda, one of the five larger moons of the planet Uranus, into the unlikely star of America's Voyager II space probe.

The pictures have scientists' minds reeling. "If you took all the bizarre geology in the solar system and put it in one object, that would be Miranda," said Professor Lawrence Soderblom of the US Geological Survey. "There is nothing like it in the solar system...you name it and we have it on Miranda."

What Miranda revealed to Voyager, which came within 50,000 miles of Uranus on Friday - and was only 18,125 miles from Miranda - was a tortured surface of mountains, canyons, cliffs and glaciers. One possible explanation for this being studied by scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory of Nasa is that Miranda has a radioactive core, which causes violent surface upheavals.

Another is that Miranda suffered from the violent

collision which shook Uranus at its birth. "We know something cataclysmic happened to Uranus," said Professor Soderblom.

It also appeared from Voyager's pictures, which were of exceptional quality from about two billion miles from Earth, that Miranda is not completely round. It has mountains, with a diameter of 300 miles and 16 miles high - almost three times as high as Everest - and valleys 10 miles deep.

Thanks to Voyager - now heading even further out for a rendezvous with Neptune, the eighth planet from the Sun, in 1989 - scientists yesterday knew also that Uranus has at least 15 moons and about 20 rings.

Before the Voyager mission, which earlier revealed secrets from Jupiter and Saturn, the fifth and sixth planets from the Sun, astronomers had known of only five moons round Uranus, and nine rings. The others being the equally romantically-named Ariel, Oberon, Umbriel and Titania.

Pledge to poor by Honduras' new president

Tegucigalpa (AP) - Señor José Azcona Hoyo, sworn in on Monday as Honduras' 75th President, has promised to work for social and economic development in the Western Hemisphere's third poorest country.

"To the United States, we reaffirm our friendship," Señor Azcona said in his inaugural address, "and vow to work for pluralistic, participatory democracy."

He is the first freely-elected president to succeed another in Honduras without military interference in 55 years.

The United States was expecting a less rocky relationship with one of its key Central American allies.

He succeeds Señor Roberto Suazo Cordova, whose election in 1981 was hailed as a first step towards democracy but whose erratic rule created sharp swings in Honduran relations with the US.



Viral infection hits Nixon

The former US President, Mr Richard Nixon (above), has been admitted to the Miami Heart Institute suffering from dehydration and a viral infection, a hospital spokesman said. Mr Nixon, aged 73, was said to be in a satisfactory condition.

The institute specializes in heart diseases, but the spokesman said the former president's problems were not related to his heart. He was admitted to hospital on Monday when he stopped off in Miami on the way back to New York from a holiday in the Bahamas.

Confusion reigns with new poll rules

From Diana Geddes, Paris

With only a month-and-a-half to go before the French general election nearly half of the voters still do not realize that they will have only one chance this time to cast their ballot, instead of the two in all previous parliamentary elections under the Fifth Republic.

The matter is of particular importance for the Socialists and the Communists, whose supporters have traditionally voted for their preferred party in the first round, and then switched to the best-placed candidate of the Left in the run-off ballot of the second round a week later.

Both parties are now frantically urging left-wing supporters not to waste their vote on March 16, by which, of course, they mean different things.

The Socialists point out

that the new system of proportional representation means that in many of the smaller *départements* the Communists will stand no chance of getting a single seat. Therefore, they say, communist voters should vote immediately for the Socialists in order to return as many left-wing candidates as possible.

Not at all, the Communists reply: a vote for the Socialists nowadays is automatically wasted, as there is no longer any difference between the Socialists and the right with whom they are proposing to "cohabit" in government. Therefore, the Communists say, vote for us in the first and only round.

Under the new voting system, the number of deputies in the National Assembly will be increased from 491 to 577, each *département* being allotted a certain num-

ber in proportion to its population. Half of the 101 *départements* have been allocated four or fewer seats, which means that any party wishing to have a candidate returned must win at least 20 per cent of the total vote in that department.

Far from leading to a proliferation of small parties, as some critics of proportional voting at first feared, the new system is likely to lead to an almost total annihilation of all but the largest parties - the Socialists, the Gaullists, the centre-right UDF, the Communists, and the extreme-right National Front - with a handful of seats possibly going to the ecologists.

Any party which won a not insignificant 7 per cent of the vote, for example, would need to have done so in a *département* with an allocation of at least 15 seats in or-

der to stand a chance of winning a single seat. But there are only three such *départements* in the whole of the country: the Bouches-du-Rhône, with 16 seats; Nord (24); and Paris (21).

Another new factor in the forthcoming election which has been worrying both the Communists and the Socialists is the sharp swing towards the right of the traditionally left-wing youth vote. A poll published last week in *l'Endurance*, a student magazine, showed that 51 per cent of people aged from 15 to 25 intended to vote for a right-wing party, including 6 per cent for the National Front.

Only 4 per cent said they were intending to vote for the Communists, 2 per cent for other extreme-left parties, 7 per cent for the ecologists, and 32 per cent for the Socialists.

EEC foreign ministers' meeting

Reagan backed on terrorism but sanctions rejected

From Richard Owen, Brussels

European foreign ministers have expressed strong support for US efforts to counteract international terrorism, but stopped short of joining Washington's economic sanctions against Colonel Gaddafi's Libya.

Instead the ministers have decided "not to export arms or other military equipment to countries which are clearly implicated in supporting terrorism". This is understood to refer to Libya, but the foreign ministers did not name the country as such, partly because of objections from Greece.

In a statement issued after Monday's foreign ministers meeting in Brussels, the Europeans undertook not to

undercut US sanctions against Libya, saying that they would do everything within their power to ensure that European companies did not seek any commercial advantage from the withdrawal of American firms. The meeting also agreed on stricter scrutiny of visas "with respect to the problem of terrorism" as well as tighter controls on frontiers and the abuse of diplomatic immunity.

A permanent working group is to monitor and "give impetus" to the European measures.

The package is disappointing for Washington, which had hoped for stronger European action against Colonel

Gaddafi in the wake of the massacres at Rome and Vienna airports last month. A proposed emergency European meeting on sanctions against Libya in The Hague last week was cancelled. At this week's meeting the Europeans were not only reluctant to name Libya but also made it clear that they could not easily instruct private companies to stay out of Libya.

EEC officials added that even stricter visa controls had somehow to be reconciled with moves toward open European frontiers.

Mr Hans van den Broek, the Dutch Foreign Minister and current President of the Council of Ministers, said Europe recognized the gravity of the problem of terrorism and had already taken measures against it such as the exchange of intelligence.

"We want to co-ordinate our efforts with the United States as much as possible," Mr van den Broek said.

Last week the Dutch Foreign Minister held talks with Mr John Whitehead, the Deputy US Secretary of State, who ended a nine-nation tour of Western capitals in The Hague. Mr Whitehead attempted in vain to persuade Western leaders to back President Reagan's sanctions against Libya, but said he was delighted that terrorism was on the European agenda and that some EEC countries, notably West Germany, had been very helpful in trying to persuade companies "not to fill in behind us" in Libya.

Mr Whitehead presented the Europeans with "additional evidence" of Colonel Gaddafi's involvement in terrorism.

Summit package signing agreed

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels

At the insistence of The Netherlands, which currently holds the presidency of the EEC Council of Ministers, European foreign ministers have agreed to sign the controversial package of EEC reforms in Luxembourg on February 17, in spite of doubts over whether either Denmark or Italy will be able to sign.

Greece also expressed reservations at a foreign ministers' meeting on Monday, saying that it would prefer an open-ended period during which members could sign the reform package.

The reforms, agreed at last month's EEC summit in Luxembourg, appear modest

in themselves. They include moves towards a Europe without frontiers, an internal market by 1992, and marginally increased powers for the European Parliament. But the reforms have caused a potential crisis in the EEC, with the Danes calling a referendum after the reforms had been rejected by the Danish Parliament as too far-reaching.

The Danish Foreign Minister, Mr Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, said Denmark would do its best to sign the package by the end of February. Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Italian Foreign Minister, told his colleagues he hoped the Italian position would be clear before mid-February.

Ministers quit in spy alert

Delhi (Reuters) - Two junior Indian Cabinet ministers and a high-ranking official have resigned suddenly and newspapers have reported they were linked to a businessman accused of spying for Taiwan.

The resignations were announced without comment on Monday night. Three newspapers said yesterday they had been linked to a businessman charged in October with spying, but senior government officials said they could not confirm or deny the reports.

The businessman, Mr Rama Swaroop, aged 55, was accused of passing secrets to Taiwan, Israel, West Germany and other unnamed nations.

The Press Trust of India announced the resignations of Mr K.P. Singh Deo, Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies, Mr Chandralekha, Minister of Rural Development, and Mr M.S. Sanjeevi Rao, chairman of the Electronic Commission. Press reports said none of the three had been charged with any crime.

The Times of India, quoting a highly-placed source, said the two ministers had resigned to gain a chance to clear themselves of suspicion.

The Indian Express said the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, had met the ministers on Friday and was upset that top officials had enjoyed the hospitality of an accused spy.

According to the newspaper, Mr Swaroop gave investigators a list of MPs and politicians he had entertained or for whom he had arranged trips to Taiwan.

The Swaroop affair was one in a series of espionage cases in India last year. Earlier a group of businessmen and government officials were accused of passing secrets to France, the Soviet Union and East Germany.



Militant Sikh youths tearing the dome from the Akal Takht shrine of the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

Delhi fails to resolve Haryana dispute

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

The impasse over the transfer of the city of Chandigarh from Haryana to Punjab state is still unresolved despite talks between Mr S.B. Chavan, the Indian Home Minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, the Punjab Chief Minister, and Mr Bhajan Lal, the Haryana Chief Minister.

Delhi proposes to resume talks in four days.

Both chief ministers claim that the Mathew Commission, appointed to identify Hindi-speaking villages in Punjab which could be trans-

ferred to Haryana, has favoured them.

The commission has said that the towns of Fazilka and Abohar and 83 villages around them are Hindi-speaking but has not recommended their transfer to Haryana.

It has left it to the Indian Government to transfer "some" Hindi-speaking villages to Haryana to compensate for Chandigarh and has even recommended the establishment of another commission.

Court will rule on saving last five condors from the wild

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

In the next few days a federal court is expected to rule on whether to allow a small army of scientists to head into the Ventura Mountains and capture the last five remaining California condors to save the birds from extinction.

The Californian condor - *Gymnogyps californianus* - a jet black vulture with a wingspan of up to 10ft, is one of North America's most endangered species. Efforts to save it from dying out have been continuing since the condor research centre in Ventura, California, was opened six years ago by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Audubon Society.

Condor officials say it is imperative to trap the five surviving condors roaming free so they can be taken to a zoo and mated with condors already in captivity.

"That's the only chance we have of keeping the condors alive," says Mr Oliver Pattee, director of the condor centre.

This month scientists hopes were dealt a severe blow when the world's only female condor still breeding died of what veterinarians believe was lead poisoning brought about by a lead pellet ingested when the bird fed on a bullet-riddled carcass.

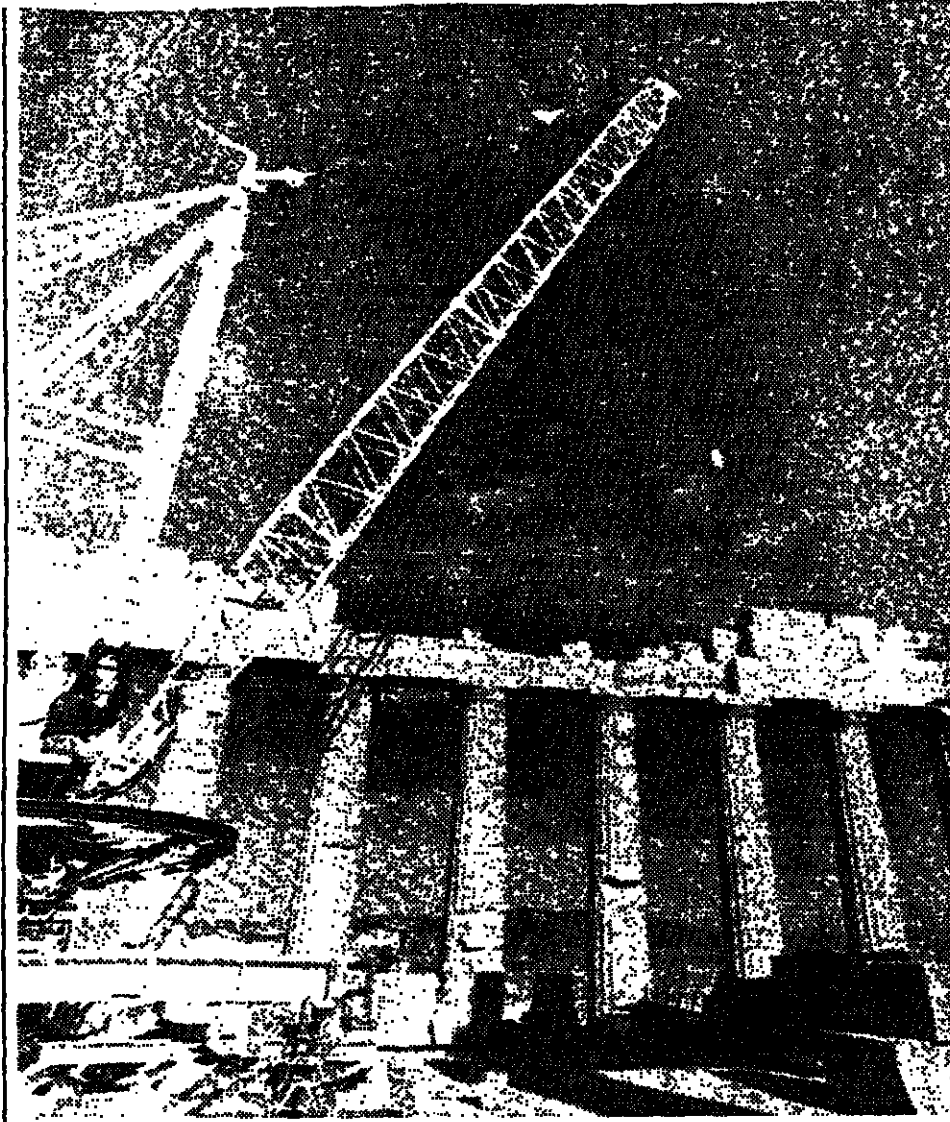
That brings the total condor population, at large and in zoos, to only 26. In the 1950s there were as many as 100 condors in California.

The five remaining condors in the Ventura Mountains, which lie to the north of Los Angeles, are easy to track because they have been fitted with miniature radio receivers by scientists.

In an effort to get the breed to multiply, scientists also began an egg snatching programme three years ago. As a result there are some 17 two and three-year-old condors in protective custody at Los Angeles and San Diego zoos.

At six or seven it is hoped that the juveniles will mate to produce a larger captive flock.

The species' future hopes in the meantime remain with two pairs of adult birds. One named Topa Topa, a 16-year-old male found as a yearling, is paired with a female adult



The 135-ft jib on a giant mechanical crane stands by to start the ten-year operation to dismantle and restore the decaying, 2,400-year-old Parthenon in Athens.

Jigsaw operation to rebuild the decaying Parthenon

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The familiar skyline of Athens has suddenly changed. The arm of a giant mechanical crane has emerged behind the jagged silhouette of the Acropolis.

It will remain there for at least 10 years, discreetly obscuring when not in use, to help experts to restore the 2,400-year-old Parthenon and protect it from further decay.

The large revolving crane, assembled inside the columned temple, rests on a tripod set roughly where the golden and ivory statue of the goddess Athena stood in classical times. Its 135ft jib will soon begin dismantling this classical masterpiece, stone by stone, for treatment.

Mr Manolis Korres, the architect in charge, says: "Our plan is to bring down the marble blocks at the rate

of one or two a day and replace corroded iron clamps of earlier restorations, which caused the marble to crack, with rust-proof titanium joints."

At the same time hundreds of marble blocks and fragments blown to the ground by the 1687 explosion which left the Parthenon in two ruined halves are to be put back in place, as in a gigantic jigsaw puzzle.

"We found enough authentic material to be able to add another 8 per cent to the monument's volume," Mr Korres explained. "This represents about 1,000 tons of marble of which only a fraction will be new stone."

Mrs Evi Tsouloupa, the director of the Acropolis, says: "The silhouette of the

Parthenon will not change perceptibly. However, one must not be intimidated by the romantic view that its present appearance is unchangeable. After all, what we see here is not due to the wear of time, but to wanton and violent acts."

"If we can improve it, we should do so for the sake of future generations."

Mr Korres, whose restoration plans for the next two years have been approved by the Greek Archaeological Council and acclaimed by an international colloquium of experts in 1983, is confident that repeated soundings have proved that the Parthenon's foundations are unusually sturdy and massive, and can safely withstand all the commotion and stress.

Window shopping for arms

From Mary Lee, Peking

A multi-million dollar international defence exhibition opened in Peking yesterday but, unfortunately for the Chinese military establishment, which is keen to upgrade its arms, most of the items on display cannot be sold to them.

According to the organizer of International Defence Industries Expo/China '86, Mr Stephen Kee, "many of the exhibits have no export licences but only exhibition licences." Of the 160 companies, including Britain, only 21 are listed as being able to sell their exhibits.

Mr Kee said that when the Chinese Ministry of Ordnance first asked his Hong Kong company to organize the exhibition, "they gave us about 1,000 pages of what they would like to buy and see." About \$3 million (£2.1 million) of the exhibits, he added, were for sale and "the Chinese would like to buy at least 50 per cent of these."

According to Mr Kee's list, however, most of the items for sale appear to be electronics with military uses. The most expensive hardware item was a French-made \$425,000 "small ammunition loading machine."

About 55,000 people from the Chinese military establishment will be able to feast their eyes on British, American, French, German, Italian and other European technology and measure just how far they have to go to catch up.

Good life has snags for China

From Our Correspondent, Peking

Economic reform in China's rural areas may be enriching the peasants but it has also had one negative side-effect, according to the *People's Daily*. The divorce rate is rising.

The report gave no statistics but listed seven reasons for this social trend.

Heading the list was quarrels over money among poorer families who were eager to become rich. Next came those peasants who, in order to get rich, have taken on non-farming jobs or gone into business.

The third reason is also related to economic reform: with more leisure time resulting from the system of contracted production, some peasants have picked up bad habits such as gambling, smoking and drinking.

The fourth reason can be directly linked with the "one-child family" policy: when a baby girl is born, the husband maltreats the wife in all sorts of ways, causing the marriage to break down.

The *People's Daily* describes this as a "feudal hangover", omitting to say that before the policy was instituted in 1962, women who bore baby girls would often try again for a boy.

The other reasons given were the traditional causes of marriage disputes: mothers-in-law, badly-managed household affairs and arranged marriages where the couple have no affection for each other.

The Philippine election US stands on Marcos fence

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Amid a growing outcry here over the conduct of the Philippines presidential election campaign and the allegations that President Marcos has been secretly buying multi-million dollar properties in the US, the Reagan Administration has publicly declared itself neutral in the election.

"We do not support any individual or party. We believe we will be able to work effectively with any democratically elected government in the Philippines," a State Department spokesman said. It was up to the Philippines people to decide who should govern them; the Administration's main concern was that the election should be fair and the Government have a mandate to tackle the country's military and political problems.

The unusual statement followed an extraordinary suggestion on Sunday by Mr Donald Regan, the White House Chief of Staff, that, while condemning any fraud, he was unconcerned about how the Manila Government was elected.

"If it's duly elected and so certified, you would have to do business with it," he said. He added in a television interview: "There are lots of governments that are elected by fraud. How about Angola?"

Other senior officials how-

ever are reported to believe that the departure of President Marcos is critical to a non-communist future for the Philippines and to the big US military bases there. Senior White House, State Department and intelligence officials told *The New York Times* that the Administration would not attack him publicly or use covert means to remove him, but would distance themselves from Mr Marcos by questioning his efforts at change.

The Administration has been dismayed by the recent press revelations that Mr Marcos's wartime guerrilla record appears to be faked.

Meanwhile the Administration, underlining concern over possible election fraud, has asked Mr Richard Lugar, chairman of the powerful Senate foreign relations committee, to lead a team of observers who will monitor the election on February 7.

The composition of this delegation, the date of its arrival and the length of stay are still being discussed. The Philippines authorities have already refused to allow any observers or journalists to approach the voting booths.

Senator Lugar said he had accepted the job despite misgivings about whether the campaign would reflect the general political will of the Filipinos.

President courts the Muslim vote

Manila (AFP) - President Marcos toured violence-torn Mindanao Island yesterday for the first time in a decade, as the opposition said two more supporters had died in election violence, bringing the toll to 15.

He vowed on local radio to prevent the creation of a separate Muslim state in the southern Philippines, and again accused Mrs Corason Aquino, his rival in the presidential election on February 7, of striking a deal with Muslim rebels.

Today's visit came only two days after Mrs Aquino accused the President of not daring to visit Mindanao,

where some 60,000 died in the height of Muslim rebellion in the mid 1970s. Counting the Muslim vote yesterday, Mr Marcos said he had been wounded while in the anti-Japanese guerrilla resistance in the Second World War and had been saved by a Muslim cavalryman.

"I swore to the Almighty and the Creator that if the chance ever came, I would also save the life of Muslims," he said, drawing robust applause.

A report in *The New York Times* report last week questioned the validity of Mr Marcos's claims to have been a war hero.

Trail of ancient treasures lost

Police baffled by gold theft

From John Carlin, Mexico City

Mexican police, not renowned for their detective work, remain in the dark about the fate of more than 170 priceless pre-Hispanic artifacts stolen on Christmas Day from Mexico City's anthropology museum.

The stolen Mayan and Aztec relics, most of them either gold or jade, were small enough to fit into a medium-sized suitcase. Museum authorities believe the theft was the work of an "international mafia", probably commissioned by a fanatical private collector.

Scores of other theories have been put forward as to the motives for the theft, but one that has been discounted is that the thieves might plan to sell the pieces on the international market. The objects are so well known that no one would dare to buy them.

"I can't see anybody in their right mind touching them with a ten-foot pole," said an American archaeologist.

Among the theories put forward is that the thieves might ask the Mexican Government for a ransom. Hoping money was the motive, the Friends of the Museum of Anthropology have put up posters all over the Mexican capital and in various American cities offering a reward of 50 million pesos (\$80,000) for information leading to the recovery of the treasures.

However, since just one of the pieces - an Aztec vase in the shape of a monkey - is reckoned to be worth \$16 million, it is felt a much greater inducement will be required before anyone comes forward.

One of the biggest horrors of archaeologists and historians - one of whom described the theft as "a cultural earthquake" - is that the thieves might be stupid enough to melt down the 99 gold artifacts in their loot.

But the experts are confident that the theft is the work of professionals. It is suspected that at least one of the robbers - thought to have been three in total - was an authority on pre-Columbian art. The pieces were intelligently selected.

Museum authorities are increasingly convinced that the robbers acted on orders from an obsessive and wealthy collector. They suspect, also, that the pieces are now in the United States, although active attempts at collaboration between Mexican and US police have yielded no clues.

The eight museum guards on duty when the pre-dawn

robbery happened on December 25 have been dismissed and may be charged with criminal negligence. Suspicions that they may have been involved were dismissed after reports that they were either sleeping or drunk when the thieves entered the building.

In the morning empty glasses and cakes were found in the museum, suggesting the guards had enjoyed a small Christmas Eve celebration.

Police are calling this the "Santa Claus robbery". It has emerged that the thieves entered the museum through a basement door and climbed through the building's air conditioning ducts to the treasures.

The crime was discovered some five hours after the thieves had left and not reported to the police for another eight hours. It took a further 24 hours for US Customs officials to be notified.

A famous Aztec sculptor known as The Plumed Götter, was stolen from the museum 20 years ago and recovered in the US a year later. Another Mexican sculpture stolen in the 1970s, more than 1,000 years old, also surfaced north of the border.

Korean president fears talks prelude to force

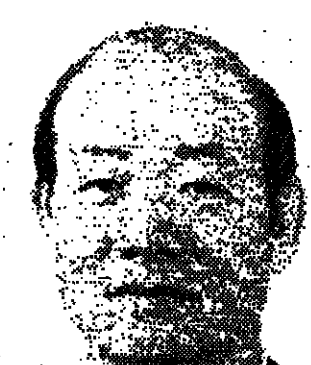
Washington (AFP) - President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea has little hope of real progress in talks with North Korea and suggests in an interview that Pyongyang sees the discussions as part of a strategy to reunify the country by force.

Mr Chun also told *The Washington Post*, in his first interview with foreign journalists for five years, that he will step down when his term expires in 1988.

He claimed that North Korea had received increased military co-operation and new weapons from the Soviet Union.

Mr Chun, who is aged 55, hinted that China was playing a more moderate role. "I hope the Chinese leadership will increase its influence in Pyongyang," he said. "That can have the effect of preventing catastrophe in the region."

He said that the North-South talks recently cut off by North Korea held little



President Chun: Suspicious of Pyongyang

Thais expel Russian journalist

Bangkok (AP) - Mr Sergei Soloviev, a journalist with the Soviet news agency Tass, has left Thailand after the Government refused to renew his work permit, "security reasons", a Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

His activities had been under suspicion for a year, the spokesman said. Mr Soloviev left Thailand on Monday.

The Soviet Embassy said he had had problems with the Labour Department and the Foreign Ministry, but the case was closed and a new correspondent was wanted.

A Labor Department official said government agencies had asked the department not to renew the permit, but gave no details.

Mr Soloviev had worked in Thailand for about a year. His departure leaves only one Russian journalist, a reporter for the newspaper *Pravda* accredited in Thailand.

Philippine election
stands on
rcos fence

KEEP CIGARETTES OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN.

(INCREASE TOBACCO TAXES, MR. LAWSON.)

ident courts
Muslim vote

by gold the

Imperial Cancer Research Fund.
Ulster Cancer Foundation.
The Coronary Prevention Group.
Health Visitors' Association.
The Society of Health Education Officers.
GASP (Group Against Smoking in Public).
AGHAST (Action Group to Halt Advertising
& Sponsorship of Tobacco).
HOOK (Hands Off Our Kids).
National Society of Non-Smokers.
Cancer Research Campaign.
TREES (Those Resisting an Early End from
Smoking).
Hackney Heart and Stroke Prevention
Project.
All Party Parliamentary ASH Group.
Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.
Faculty of Community Medicine.
The National Society for Cancer Relief.
Association of Community Health Councils for
England and Wales.
The Salvation Army.
Tenovus Cancer Information Centre.
British Dental Association.
The Boys' Brigade.
The Royal College of General Practitioners.
The National Association of Health Authorities
in England and Wales.
The Royal Society of Medicine.
The Royal Institute of Public Health and
Hygiene.
Royal College of Obstetricians and
Gynaecologists.
The Girls' Brigade.
The Royal College of Surgeons of England.
The Royal College of Pathologists.
The Royal College of Psychiatrists.
Salisbury Positive Health Group.
Board for Social Responsibility, Church of
England.
Church of England Children's Society.
The Scottish Convention of Women.
Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.
AGTS (Artists' Campaign Against Tobacco
Sponsorship).
London School of Hygiene and Tropical
Medicine.
Chest, Heart and Stroke Association.
Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of
Glasgow.
Women's National Cancer Control Campaign.
Spastics Society.
COUGHIN.
British Institute of Radiology.
The Royal College of Midwives.
The Presbyterian Church of Wales.
British Heart Foundation.
Action on Smoking and Health.
Royal College of Nursing.
Suffolk ASH.
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Darlington Health Authority.

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Which is why we urge you to substantially raise the
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Community Medicine Department, Milton
Keynes Health Authority.
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Health Promotion Unit Worcester & District
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Authority Education Department.
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Swindon Health Authority.
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Mid-Downs Health Authority, West Sussex.
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Plymouth Health Authority.
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South West Durham Health Authority.

Preston Health Authority.
Leicestershire Health Authority.
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South East Kent Health Authority.
East Yorkshire Health Authority.
Ponterfract Health Authority.
Bath District Health Authority.
Barnet Health Authority.
South Birmingham Health Authority.
East Cumbria Health Authority.
Northumberland Health Authority.
Hillingdon Health Authority.
Redbridge Health Authority.
Barking, Havering and Brentwood Health
Authority.
Central Nottinghamshire Health Authority.
North Birmingham Health Authority.
Durham Health Authority.
Central Birmingham Health Authority.
Trafford Health Authority.
East Anglian Regional Health Authority.
St Helens and Knowsley Health Authority.
Wirral Health Authority.
South Lincolnshire Health Authority.
Chorley and South Ribble Health
Authority.
Tower Hamlets Health Authority.
Merton and Sutton Health Authority.
West Dorset Health Authority.
Tunbridge Wells Health Authority.
South Tees Health Authority.
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Health Authority.
Southmead Health Education Department.
Sheffield District Health Authority.
Milton Keynes Health Authority.
West Lambeth Health Authority.
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Greenwich Health Education Service.
Solihull Health Authority.
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Authority.
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Brent Health Authority.
Bradford Health Authority.
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Wandsworth Health Authority Health
Promotion Services.
Ealing Health Authority.

Shropshire Education Authority.
Islington Health Education Department.
Greenwich Health Education Service.
Dartford & Gravesham Health Education
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Gwent Health Education Centre.
Chwyd Health Education Unit.
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Basildon & Thurrock Health Authority Health
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Maidstone District Health Education Unit.
Harrow Health Education Department.
Hampstead Health Education Unit.
Ponterfract Health Education Service.
South West Durham Health Education
Department.
West Glamorgan Health Education
Department.
Riverside Health Education Department.
Harrogate Health Education Service.
Health Education Department, North
Staffordshire Health Authority.
Northampton Health Education Service.
Hartlepool Health Education Department.
Great Yarmouth and Waveney Health
Education Service.
Milton Keynes Health Education Department.
Chichester Health Education Unit.
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Hastings Health Promotion Unit.
Redbridge and Waltham Forest Health
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Cornwall Education Committee.
Gwynedd Health Education Unit.
Hounslow Education Committee.
Maidstone District Health Education Unit.
Bloomsbury Health Education Department.
Bristol and Weston District Health Promotion
Advisory Committee.
Salisbury Health Education Service.
East Cumbria Health Education Department.
Isle of Wight Health Promotion Unit.
West Norfolk & Wisbech Health Authority.
Health Education Unit.
Belfast Education and Library Board.
The Oxfordshire Health Unit.
County of Avon Education Committee.
Oldham Education Authority.
South Cumbria Health Authority, Health
Education Unit.
Health Promotion Unit, East Berkshire Health
Authority.
The Slough Health Habit.
North Tees District Health Education Service.
The Physical Education Association of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland.
Newham Health Education Service.
Wigan Health Education Department.
Stockport Health Promotion Unit.
Southampton and South West Hampshire
Health Education Service.
Hull and East Yorkshire Health Education
Service.
Health Education Unit Eastern Health and
Social Services Board.

Moviemaker at the barricades

The huge costs of the film *Revolution* and its star Al Pacino have put Goldcrest's back to the wall. But the company is fighting on...

Al Pacino does not come cheap. He doesn't even come reasonable. In a nutshell Al Pacino costs \$3 million. And that is a large chunk of the \$19 million budget of Hugh Hudson's film *Revolution*, which opens in London on Friday.

It is an unusual film in that it hardly matters what the critics think; it is almost irrelevant how many people pay to see it. For *Revolution* is already a flop. That is nothing to do with the quality of the film, nor Mr Pacino's performance, but because it has "bombed" in America.

The United States and Canada now represent 75 per cent of the world film market. If you fail there with a big-budget movie, you have failed full stop. Of course it happens all the time, but in this case it was a failure that almost brought down the most famous and spectacularly successful of recent British film companies — Goldcrest.

Today, however, Goldcrest's chief executive, Jake Eberts, will unveil a rescue plan to institutional shareholders — a three-point package which, over about 18 months, will restore Goldcrest's financial stability.

But it has been a close thing. The company that made *Gandhi*, *Chariots of Fire*, *Local Hero* and *The Killing Fields* and that had been the standard bearer for the British cinema renaissance has survived by the skin of its teeth.

The idea for Goldcrest was born in 1973 when the cartoon epic *Waterhip Down* was made. The packaging of that film inspired Eberts, a Canadian, to set up the British production firm that became Goldcrest in 1976. For five years Eberts and a secretary formed the entire staff.

By then it was a subsidiary of the Pearson group, which owns *The Financial Times* and *Penguin Books*, and it attracted a handful of large City investors. Its assets were the talents of people like the producer David Puttnam and the director Richard Attenborough. By 1983 its track record looked immaculate.

Then Eberts left to join the American company Embassy, taking with him John Boorman's film *The Emerald Forest*, which Goldcrest had turned against suddenly, after having spent £3 million on it. The British renaissance seemed to be faltering. Goldcrest made the kind of mistakes that have brought it the downfall of every other British movie maker, from Korda's assault on the American market in the 1930s to Lew Grade's attempts in the 1960s. And Eberts came to the rescue.

He produced a financial strategy to show that films were as sound an investment as anything else. This involved a complex juggling of risk

and reward ratios, a strict ceiling on every budget and his unsurpassed understanding of the American market. His ideal production year would involve one flagship movie costing an absolute maximum of £15 million, a medium-budget movie costing £6-8 million and a range of low-budget films.

Every film would be financed differently, using the appropriate web of guarantees, distribution rights and television and video deals. All this provided a portfolio approach to investment that the City could understand. Combined with the undeniable success of films like *Gandhi* or *Chariots of Fire*, it made financing films seem sensible and at least moderately exciting. Furthermore, Britain could offer the highest quality studios in the world and tax incentives. Last year, for example, £124 million was invested in films in Britain.

Goldcrest had spent £17,000 developing the *Chariots of Fire* script and made £750,000 in return; risk was almost non-existent. Eberts seemed to offer the distant prospect of a stable and permanent production base to compete with Hollywood.

But it had to be a slow process. And in this context Colin Weiland's "The British are coming" speech at the 1982 Oscar awards and all the premature crowing about our success were profoundly damaging. Behind all that was the simple fact that Goldcrest was still in no

'If you want to start a British film company you should first hire Jake Eberts and second hire nobody else'

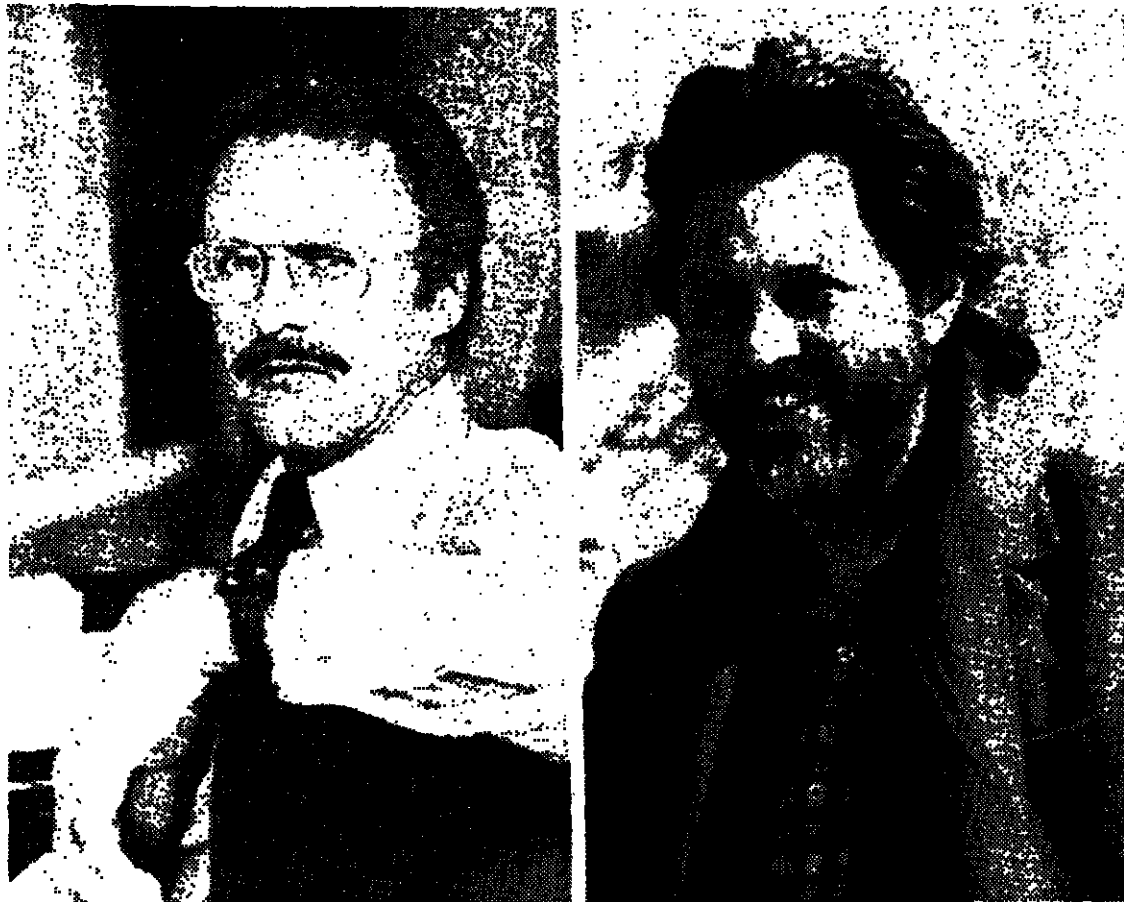
position to withstand a major flop. Finances may be secure, but investors' confidence could evaporate.

James Lee, the key figure following the Pearson involvement, brought in Sandy Lieberson to replace Eberts in 1983. It was a logical choice. He was the only man around with a comparable understanding of the American market.

But the company had been too ready to abandon the Eberts formula. The big production for 1985 was to be David Puttnam's *Mission*, a risky venture involving filming in South America. But being developed simultaneously was *Revolution*, also aimed at the top-of-the-range budget and directed by Hugh Hudson, who made *Chariots of Fire*. Both Hudson and Warner Brothers, which was to deliver the film to the US, decided they wanted Pacino. Goldcrest



Hugh Hudson's *Revolution*: Within three weeks of starting shooting, it was \$3 million over budget



Jake Eberts: about to unveil a rescue plan involving economies and a partnership

David Puttnam: his new *Mission*, filmed in South America, could be a lifeline

agreed and already it was in the budget stratosphere. "He's a great actor," Eberts said later, "but I can't afford him."

Revolution was dogged by difficulties. Within three weeks of the start of shooting it was \$3 million over budget. It seemed jinxed. A £250,000 camera crane fell over a cliff and the final budget of £21 million has only been reduced to £19 million by insurance claims. Even the currency markets were against it. American guarantees dwindled in value as the pound rose, and production costs soared relative to the dollar.

Meanwhile Goldcrest had abandoned its attempt to penetrate the American television market, spearheaded by the series *Robin of Sherwood*. It had never really seemed close to success with that venture. Having grown used to quick and spectacular returns from movies, executives did not seem willing to accept the long slog

required to make a living from the American networks.

The company had also moved into huge new offices and now had 35 staff. As it became clear that *Revolution* had problems, it also became clear that Goldcrest was heading for a catastrophic cash-flow crisis. It seemed ready to hit the £12 million overdraft ceiling set by the Midland Bank last year. Eberts realized what was happening by April. By September he was back in control.

He has halved the staff and is looking for cheaper offices. His plan involves investors producing immediate cash by reassessing their television catalogue, teaming up with one of the many outsiders which have offered partnership or takeover, and a revaluation exercise which will be announced at the shareholders' meeting. Goldcrest will this week unveil two films for which it has taken up distribution rights and, a little later, it will

announce it is to make Sir Richard Attenborough's cherished project, *Biko*.

The moves to bring help, worth up to £8 million, could keep Goldcrest in film production.

Last week the big fear was that Goldcrest would become little more than a sales office. That has been avoided, but the question now is whether the crisis will have scared off investors. For the moment there will inevitably be a retreat from the excitement of recent years — apart from anything else the favourable tax conditions no longer apply. But for the future the lessons may finally have been learnt. As one observer put it: "If you want to start a British film company you should do two things — first hire Jake Eberts and second hire nobody else."

Bryan Appleyard

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Taxing problems of conservation

Why the owners of country estates are sniping at the Chancellor

The taxman is emerging as the latest threat to the British countryside. Just as some of the biggest landowners are accepting what environmental groups have been preaching for years — that broad-leaved trees, hedges, ponds and wild places on their estates are good for nature — many claim they are having to forego conservation as capital taxes begin to bite deep into their ancient ancestral estates.

Over the next few months hefty apologies from accountants urging a reduction in taxes on a wide range of interest groups will accumulate on the Chancellor's desk. But the Country Landowners Association believes its case against Capital Transfer Tax (CTT) should have rather more popular appeal than most ritual howls of outrage by the professional tax objectors, particularly to a government which sees electoral gain from supporting the environment.

As it rehearses its annual appeal to Chancellor Nigel Lawson, the association warns that the consequences of inaction could soon be imprinted on the countryside.

Introduced in 1974, CTT imposes a 60 per cent tax on estates when they are passed from one generation to the next. Many of the older landowners, following their ancestors' wisdom that they would die, first, won an initial reprieve by requesting their land to their wives, a move exempt from tax. But 10 years on, those wives are dying and the full effect of CTT is coming to estates as they are passed on to the next generation.

The CLA argues that long-established, family-owned estates are being forced to choose between the environment and the smaller farmer or institutional landowner, who is pressured by shorter-term financial considerations to maximize his profits. The submissions to the Chancellor include abolishing Capital Gains Tax on property held for more than three years, increasing the transfer tax threshold and reducing Capital Transfer Tax rates.

Within the next five to 10 years, the CLA says, many larger estates may have to be sold off to smaller farmers who, in order to place their bank managers, will have to maximize their yields. This could mean destroying woods and hedges to squeeze in more growing space.

In addition, older landowners are having to save to meet the tax bill rather than invest in renewing the environment. To prove its point the CLA has signed out the Bosanquet estate near Raglan, Gwent, as a model example of what many more landowners would be willing to do for conservation if the Chancellor would reduce the tax burden.

Anthony Bosanquet and his wife, both in their early forties, are unlikely to have to make an early payment of the £300,000 CTT bill which would be due on their ancestral holdings, set in

Landowners will not invest in the future if they face financial threats

pleasantly undulating Marcher land. Even so, should some premature disaster hit them, Bosanquet admits his family could not meet the bill and the estate would have to be broken up. Earlier ravages of taxation have already reduced the estate from 2,500 acres to 1,000. Bosanquet has decided to stamp practical conservation on what remains. He has fenced off corners of fields as havens

for wildlife instead of turning them over to EEC subsidized cereals, and spent £16,000 on restoring a silted, derelict lake to attract wildlife. He has recently planted 5,000 hardwood trees, including 1,425 oaks, which should please the conservationists of the year 2065 when they come to maturity.

He has also repaired estate houses sympathetically in local stone when the cheaper option would have been to sell them to sitting tenants with the risk that they would redecorate in more out-of-character materials.

Anthony Bosanquet says: "It's unjust and unrealistic that once every generation a large slice of capital is required from the estate to meet tax demands. As landowners we need to feel we

Smaller farmers have to look for a quicker return on their land

have more security of tenure and not see the capital assets on which our business is based being steadily eroded.

"This is money which could be more usefully employed carrying out the function of the landlords, which includes preservation of the countryside. Conservation is a long-term commitment. If there is a financial threat hanging over the landowner then he is not going to be particularly willing to invest in the future. It is only because I am a comparatively young man that I can undertake this commitment."

There is less Capital Transfer Tax to pay if the property is passed on during the lifetime of the land-



Exemplary landowner: Anthony Bosanquet

owner, but there are many who cannot do this, and even those who can are giving up their livelihood."

Richard Williams, head of the CLA's tax department, says that smaller landowners cannot afford to take the longer term view and have to look for a quicker return on the land through high-yield crops or conifers.

"The economics of this sort of conservation exercise can be justified only on a large estate that balances the books. But if Bosanquet was 30 years older there would be no question of him planting hardwood or leaving land uncultivated. He would have to think of the Chancellor, not wildlife."

"All over the country highly desirable conservation projects are coming under pressure from CTT. Estates like the Bosanquets are split up there will be no scope for the estates which please the conservationists."

Gareth Huw Davies

If it's April, it must be India

It did not augur well for Henry Weston's attempt to run round the world when the wheels fell off his orange box in France after three days.

The 24-year-old from Portsmouth began his global jog from Tower Bridge on April Fools' Day 1984, with a massive hail-to-the-eccentric media storm to see him off. He promptly got lost down the Old Kent Road.

"I had to duck into a laundrette and whisper to two old ladies: 'Don't tell anyone you've seen me but where's Dartford?' They drew me a map on the back of a cigarette packet, so then I said: 'Where's Cairo?'"

And that was just the beginning. As the extraordinary hazards of Henry unfolded after 21 months on the road (bitumen and bog inclusive), the problem of a self-destructing orange box being towed by a chap on a bicycle — his grandly designed "support vehicle" — was absolutely nothing.

"By day three I couldn't walk, never mind run. My legs were terrible. I was completely shattered," Weston said. "And then it got worse."

Chaotic disaster and mishap have been gently on the rise ever since as Weston's tortuous route has led him across Europe to Turkey, through the strife-torn Middle East, along a passage through India, down the Malay Peninsula and right across Australia.

He decides to give up at least three times a day, but so far England's ultimate marauder has ploughed on through dysentery, ringworm, false arrest for bank robbery, almost fatal hangovers, a mugging in Melbourne, marauding monkeys, hijacking a glass-bottomed tourist boat out of Jordan, five collisions with cars and one with a working elephant.

Henry Weston is jogging round the world, with only a bicycle and orange box to help him

"I think it's all perfectly normal," he said when he arrived recently in Sydney, Australia, after an estimated 12,000 miles.

Now only North America remains. A useful fact in view of his mission to raise £150,000 for the World Wildlife Fund. So far the Europeans, Asians and Australians have only managed to muster £10,000. And in India they were asking him for money.

Weston admits to an over-draft of about £2,500 and sells his body, as it were, en route to sponsors who may want to hire his head and shoulders as a temporary billboard.

But with his bizarre stories he has become the centre of bemused attention in Sydney. "I was just running along in India reading — I often read and write letters while I run because it's so boring — when suddenly I went smack into an elephant," he said.

"The poor Indian chap on top of it fell off laughing. I'd never seen a white man before and I suppose it's a bit unfortunate that the first one he comes across is running along looking grumpy terrible and reading a book."

The ghastly looks had less to do with colliding with on-rushing vehicles than with his outdoor lifestyle. He had only been run over three times at that stage, but the effects of

sleeping under the stars and the influence of violent Yugoslavian brandy were beginning to tell.

A running-mate, Robin Cook, resigned in India. Weston, however, bankrupt and sick with ringworm, flew on to Perth where he took a temporary job as a window cleaner to pay his way through Malaysia and Thailand.

The Far Eastern lands proved kinder to him than he had dared hope. A Malaysian prince invited him to tea, where he unwittingly petted a wild bear all afternoon. "I thought it was a dog," he said.

Thailand bequeathed him his very own presidential-style police escort for the full 1,100 miles of the journey. Of course, having passed through all the diabolical barriers from pain to the politically awkward (as at the gateway to Syria, where he was refused a visa on the grounds that his brand new car was green), the language barrier presented no problems. Sadly for Sydney's multi-cultural education, Weston recently embarked for Hawaii — but at least he left in style, running at the head of an egg-and-spoon race all the way to the airport.

He is still suffering from two cracked ribs and a touch of pleurisy received from the onslaught of six drunks who took a shine to his camera in Melbourne. Happily, a stoic Britishness and a rampant sense of lunacy are keeping aloft his plans to become by April the first man ever to run round the world.

"Oh, I'm a bit bruised and battered and I hate running really. But all you can do is carry on," he said. But why? "Sometimes I say it's the challenge. But actually I haven't a clue."

Sue Mott

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| Would you retain Society's hard won control over polio, diphtheria, TB and smallpox? | | | |
| Would you agree we must have medicines and vaccines which have been tested for safety? | | | |
| Would you agree that we need to alleviate and control, for example, cancer, arthritis, multiple sclerosis and heart disease? | | | |
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WEDNESDAY PAGE

First lady of the stage



From Evita on Broadway to Les Misérables in Britain and back: Patti LaPone is optimistic about the future

Patti LaPone, who made her stage debut in New York at the age of four, is the first American actress to land a leading role with the RSC in London

Patti LaPone, the only daughter of an elementary school headmaster in Long Island, New York, made her stage debut at four, tap dancing. "I looked out at the audience and they were all smiling," she recalled. "I thought: Gee, I can do whatever I like and they'll still smile." And by and large they have. Patti, 36 this year, is the first American actress and singer to have a principal role with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

She is now more than halfway through her contract as Fantine, the fallen factory girl in *Les Misérables*, an unusual arrangement made possible by an agreement between British and American Equity under which a British actor would be allowed to work in the United States. Later this year the show opens in America and Patti may return home, where she has first refusal for the part.

Patti LaPone is small and extremely energetic with an angular face and an enormous elastic mouth. She has straight mouse-brown hair and a voice that rises high and falls low as she gestures, mimics and describes. She is seldom still. The

evening I went to see her in her dressing room before her performance at the Palace Theatre, London, she was drinking Lucozade with gusto from small bottles stored in her fridge. She wore jeans, soft red leather boots and a man's vast black-and-white striped cotton jacket. When she says her life has been one of continuous movement, you believe her.

After her first success at four, she kept on tap dancing until as a teenager she started dancing classes in New York with Martha Graham. At 15 came formal singing tuition. She might have taken up opera, as her mother hoped, but she flunked the Juilliard School audition. "It was the perfect cliché audition," she said. "One judge was filing her nails and another was reading a book."

A year later, John Houseman was one of the directors to add a drama division to the school; this time there was no hesitation. Four years of slogging but exhilarating routine of

Les Misérables came out of the blue

13 hours' work a day, six days a week, and Patti LaPone left as one of the first 17 graduates, a group so in tune with each other that *The New York Times* theatre critic said it would be crazy to dishband them. John Houseman agreed: he spoke to Equity and arranged that the 17 should tour the United States in a bus, to this day the only permanent repertory company doing classical and contemporary theatre.

It was a remarkable apprenticeship.

"Fifteen years' experience in four" is how she describes it. Almost without a break, they often performed one-night stands of major plays before climbing back on the bus for another gruelling drive. (Their driver was so fast that he could circumvent union rules about time at the wheel and still reach cities on time.)

"We did *Measure for Measure* on an altar in Kansas City. We had hecklers in all those cities where no one had anything to do on a Saturday night. And in the Bronx we regularly lost out to basketball games." But she learnt that audiences were sophisticated: they knew what they wanted. Contrary to all expectations, the American Midwest was mad about Restoration comedy and knowledgeable too.

That grounding paid off. She was soon offered a series of parts in New York, both on and off Broadway. There were film roles and, in 1980, the title role in *Evita*, for which she won a Tony award. Since then she has had good roles in the New American National Theatre in Washington and a part in the film *Witness*. She is never out of work: "I'm prepared to go where the work is," she said.

Home, when she manages to get there, is in Chelsea, New York. There she usually leaves her 15-year-old cat, her quilt, coffee pot and favourite pillow. But all of these, except the cat, have come with her to the Hampstead house she has rented for the run of *Les Misérables*. During her stay she hopes to visit King Arthur country, as the musical *Camelot* has turned her into an "Arthurian freak".

Patti LaPone is optimistic about

her future; something will always turn up. "Look at *Les Misérables*," she said. "It came out of the blue in September because they couldn't find another Fantine." If there's nothing around in April she wants a long holiday in the Seychelles, or perhaps a trip on the 28ft sailing sloop she shares with her twin brothers. "I used to read a lot, now I sit and dream. I got tired of lugging books about."

Those dreams include singing at the Apollo in Harlem, and opera at the Met - both jokes, she says firmly - but another is serious: acting on the London stage. She also wants to do

Midwest mad about Restoration comedy

Greek tragedies in Greece. Does she know any Greek? "Oh no," she laughed loudly, "but I could."

She looks exceptionally fit, the result of at least three sessions a week on a body trainer. She drinks very little, smokes even less and is always conscious of how she looks. "It seems all these years I've devoted myself to honing my craft. I need to keep myself strong emotionally and physically. I don't really know how I keep mentally fit except that I accept all situations as being destined."

As I left, Patti LaPone looked at the travelling clock on her dressing table. "Ah, quarter to six. Lots of time. I'll have a nap." Then, calling me back, she remembered: "That's how I keep mentally fit. I have naps."

Caroline Moorehead

When home pressures mean no steam in the office

Why do women take more time off work than men? Lee Rodwell investigates

Most couples have known for a long time what researchers have now proved: if you are having a tough time at work, things may be far from sweetness and light at home. Yet it is only recently that those who specialize in studying the effects of stress on working people have woken up to the fact that there is another side to the coin: if people are going through hell at home, their work is going to suffer.

Recent studies, for example by the National Centre for Health Statistics in the United States, show that more working days are lost by separated or divorced people than by staff who are married or single.

Now a one-day conference, sponsored by the Management Research Centre and Control Data, a large computer company, is to be held on March 25 at the Royal College of Physicians, and will address itself to the impact of domestic stress on performance at work.

Robert Chester, a senior lecturer in psychology at the University of Hull, who will be reading a paper at the conference, says: "There has been a lot of work on the impact of work stress on domestic relationships, but there is also evidence that marital or domestic disruption can produce a lot of distress and ill-health. Research on samples of divorced people shows that their attitude and performance at work is affected and that they lose time at work, not just through ill-health but by having to take days off to see solicitors and so on."

Absence from work - whatever the cause - is a recurrent problem for employers. Facts and figures are hard to come by, and the statistics published in the General Household Surveys provide a very limited picture. What does emerge, however, from a variety of sources, is that women tend to take more time off from work than men.

According to the General Household Surveys, women have had slightly higher sickness absence rates than men since 1980. In 1983, the last year for which figures are available, 4.8 per cent of female workers were off sick in the week before they were interviewed, compared with 3.5 per cent of male workers. The difference was even more pronounced when only full-time workers were considered, largely because levels of sickness were higher among full-time than among part-time female employees.

Last year Jennifer Pinder, a London dentist, lost a test

case claiming that a life insurance company was discriminating against women by charging higher premiums for health cover.

Last year, a survey by the Industrial Society analysing information provided by member organizations found that female workers were more often absent than their male counterparts by 28 per cent. Men lost 7.44 days a year, women 9.54.

What this means to individual businesses can be illustrated by the case of an electrical company employing about 3,500 people. About 500 of these work in the head office, and the rest are employed in a number of factories in the Home Counties.

According to the firm's managing director, about 70 per cent of head office staff is male and absenteeism is about 3 per cent annually. In the factories, the skilled staff, who tend to be male and weekly paid, have an absenteeism rate of about 6 per cent. But the weekly paid unskilled staff - predominately female - have a rate of closer to 10 per cent.

Company advice schemes cut down staff sickness

This particular employer feels that self-certification - which was linked to the introduction of the Employers Statutory Sick Pay Scheme in 1983 - is partly to blame for the increase in absenteeism. He says: "The problem is getting worse and worse as people realize it is easier to take time off. I always find it amazing that the bugs know who and when to strike."

Not all employers agree that self-certification has had a direct impact on absenteeism. The Industrial Society found that out of 204 companies, 88 felt it had no effect, 34 were happy with the system and 82 were dissatisfied with it. And there is no evidence to show that women abuse it more than men.

Dr Peter Taylor, International Medical Adviser at Unilever, has been studying absenteeism for many years and gave the Industrial Society help with the survey. He says: "No doubt some women occasionally gild the lily, but most are not malingerers."

So why should working women get ill more often than working men? Dr Taylor suggests that one reason may be that working women have a tougher life than working men. "Who

gets the supper? Who

changes the sheets?" He has a point. According to *Social Trends*, published earlier this month, male full-time employees have 33.5 hours of free time a week, compared with 24.6 hours for their female counterparts.

Another factor which may have some bearing on the question of absenteeism is that of job satisfaction. A report published by Incomes Data Service in 1984 pointed out: "Research has consistently shown that absence rates vary quite considerably when analysed by job category. White-collar employees tend to be absent less often than works employees, reflecting job satisfaction and higher responsibility. Even within staff and works categories there are significant differences, with managerial staff having lower absence rates than clerical staff and craftsmen attending better than production operatives."

The report also says: "It is worth remembering that since women are concentrated in less senior grades in most organizations, their higher absence rates may reflect their job satisfaction as much as the fact that they are women."

Women take time off if they happen to be mothers of small children. The 1983 General Household Survey showed that absence rates for women varied in relation to the age of the youngest dependent child.

Seven per cent of women with children under the age of five were absent for personal and other reasons, including absence on account of children, compared with 2 per cent of women and older dependent children and 1 per cent of women with no dependent children. Only 2 per cent of men with dependent children under five were absent for personal and other reasons.

Control Data, which employs 1,500 people in the United Kingdom, introduced a new service for its employees in 1981. The Employee Advisory Resource (EAR for short) was set up to provide a confidential source of advice and counselling on any problem employees wish to discuss.

Control Data is now offering its counselling and advisory service to other companies. John Hall, manager of EAR, is convinced that by helping people resolve anything which is causing stress - whether it is a practical problem about money or housing or an emotional one about a relationship - the company is also helping itself.

"If someone has a problem, they are more likely to take time off. By helping them sort things out quicker, we help them and we help the company."

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TOMORROW

How the Pope will tread warily through India's religious minefield

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THE TIMES C.O.O.K.

SHONA CRAWFORD POOLE



the bowl and add the butter in large dice. Process to the texture of fine breadcrumbs, then add the egg yolk mixed with vanilla, and process until the dough forms a ball round the blade. Use at once or chill before rolling out.

When making the pastry by hand the procedure is virtually reversed. Work the butter with the fingertips until it is soft, then blend in the sugar, salt, egg and vanilla. Lastly work in the flour.

Roll out the dough thinly and use it to line six small loose-bottomed tins measuring about 10cm (four inches) across, or one 20cm (eight inch) tin. Bake the shells blind in a preheated moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for about 15 minutes. There is no need to prick or weigh the pastry, which is so rich it does not bubble up.

lemons, 2.25 litres (4 pints) of water and 1.8kg (4lb) of granulated or preserving sugar.

Seville orange marmalade
Makes about 2.5kg (5½lb)
1.5kg (3¼lb) Seville oranges
2 lemons
2.25 litres (4 pints) water
1.2kg (2½lb) granulated or preserving sugar

Line a sieve with a square of muslin or cheesecloth and set it over a bowl. Cut the fruit in halves, squeeze the juice and strain it into the bowl. Using a teaspoon, scoop the pulp, pips and pith into the sieve. Tie up the cloth into a loose bag and put it into the preserving pan with the juice.

Taking a very sharp knife, cut the peel only into fine strips about 2.5cm (1 inch) long and add them to the pan with water. Bring to the boil, reduce the heat, and simmer until the peel is very tender and the liquid has reduced to half its original volume - about two hours.

Lift the bag out of the pan and squeeze back into its contents as much of the pectin-rich liquid as possible. Now add the sugar (which will dissolve more quickly if it has already been warmed in the oven), and stir on a low heat until it has melted completely. Increase the heat and boil the marmalade rapidly for a set. To test for setting, drop a small spoonful on to a cold plate. If it stiffens and forms a skin quite quickly it will set.

Remove the pan from the heat, and if necessary skim the marmalade. To prevent all the peel from floating to the tops of the jars, allow the marmalade to cool a little before potting it in very clean jars preheated in a cool oven (110°C/225°F, gas mark 1½). Seal the jars when the marmalade is quite cold.

Illustration: Dana Leadbetter

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BENEFITS OF RATES

Local spending is a giant item in public expenditure. The Government's macro-economic strategy has demanded it be controlled and shrunk. Treasury has pushed. Environment Department has pulled (the spending departments not exactly lending a hand) and the result has been, in white paper planning terms, a mouse. On the most generous assessment the Government has succeeded only in reducing the rate of increase of aggregate council spending since 1980.

Council spending has overshoot, consistently overshoot, for three good reasons. During the 1980s, Labour councils have taken office, and been returned to office, committed to expenditures far in excess of what the government has deemed affordable. Essentially this overspending has come from urban councils, and among them from councils in hock to the Labour Party's new left. But it is pure political partisanship to lay the entire blame for overspending at the doors of Mr Livingstone, or the councillors of Camden, or Militants. Overspending is no monopoly of the left. There is a built-in factor, the imperialism of the municipal empire some have called it, which has continued to push outlays up. Meanwhile there have been conflicting signals from the Government - from the Home Office on law and order, from the Department of Health on social services.

But there is one good, unassailable reason why council spending should be above target: the people have willed it. This possibility made yesterday's Green Paper necessary, and despite the fact that it is the umpteenth state paper on the future of council finance in the past decade, particularly well-timed. The fact is that council spending decisions of the past few years cannot properly be called the results of public choice because the system does not permit a convincing statement of choice. The public is ignorant of costs; it misreads the flow of benefits. There is too large a mismatch between those entitled to vote in local elections, those who benefit from services and those who pay for them. The grant system is mysterious, to councillor, finance officer, elector and ratepayer alike.

We are searching, the latest Secretary of State for the Environment promised in the first flush of his enthusiasm

for office last year, for a means of establishing that link anew. The Green Paper, he promised, would inaugurate a new era in the relations of councils and government. Make them accountable, the prediction ran, and the voters would be allowed to make a free choice - free of the continuous legislative attentions they have been receiving from government in recent years, free from the Treasury's claim that decisions by them to spend their own area's money could in any way be contrary to the national interest. It was an attractive vision, suited for a radical secretary of state in a government committed both to rolling back the intrusive state and trusting that the people of Britain could, as in their economic life, be trusted to follow their own freely-expressed preferences.

The vision is obliterated in the Green Paper. Here is a recipe for change, some of it useful - for example the proposal for simplifying the central support grant. For the rest, it surely pushes the relationship between central and local government in Britain further along its road towards overweening Whitehall control. Indeed it creates a brand new central control over business rates; it snaps the connection between local authority and business taxpayer and potentially upsets the balance between individual and corporate taxation. It proposes all manner of controls on capital spending and a new generation of caps on current spending.

Somewhere along the road, radical vision has been transformed into the crudest of political commitments: being seen to do something about the rates. Mrs Thatcher's original promise, made in 1974 when she was shadow spokesman on local government matters, was never a simple declaration against property tax as such: it was as much a cry of pain, about the growing cost of municipal services and the inadequacy of mechanisms for public choices among them. It has become a shibboleth, a refusal to distinguish between the cost of government and means of supporting it. Rates must go, it is insisted. The centre piece of the Green Paper becomes their replacement, the poll tax. Verbiage about community charge simply confuses its nature. A true charge gives the payer an option. A true community charge would be

one which a local electorate willingly imposed upon itself, a tax for services it had chosen. The government's version is a poll tax for services which it will define and whose cost and level of provision it will closely supervise.

The practical problems, dismissed in a few lines in the main body of the Green Paper cannot be underestimated. Glibly creating a new criminal offence (refusal by head of household to register); new policing of job and housing mobility: these constitute intrusions by an already overmighty State. Scotland, the government proposes, is to be the testbed for poll tax's politics. Mr Rifkind will need his courage. Last year's northern battles were about which business ratepayers bore the brunt; the introduction of poll tax will throw up as many problems over the allocation of the bills among householders. As the difficulties, of principle as well as practice with poll tax are counted out, the relative advantages of rates multiply.

Why should domestic rate bills not be paid by more households? Why cannot the rebate arrangements be adjusted to bring more payers into the net? Real property is, in virtually every other western nation, the foundation for local taxation to pay for local services. Either adjust the balance of services that property should pay for (by for example the exclusion of further and higher education from local financing) or reform the rates, building on the strengths of property tax as a perceptible, difficult to avoid and, if necessary, painful impost.

The essence of local government financial reform is trust. Either you trust the people to create the local government they wish - and that will mean diversity, different levels of service in different areas - and occasionally the election of Mr Livingstone or his ilk. Or, failing that radical step, you trust the existing councils, giving them a stable basis in taxation and leaving them subject always to rigorous scrutiny at the ballot box (for example by more frequent elections). The government trusts neither. The Green Paper's plan will convince only those who trust the central government, right down to the nitty gritty of parochial decision-making.

POLITICS AND THE POUND

The sterling tempest of the past three weeks illustrates one important lesson for markets and government alike. We are in the season, however far from the eventual general election, when politics can have a swift and powerful feedback into our economic fortunes.

The precipitating causes of sterling's weakness were not the Westland affair but the sudden plunge in the oil price, coupled with unease and confusion about Mr Nigel Lawson's monetary policy. Yet the confidence with which sterling rebounded yesterday, following Mrs Thatcher's statement (or, perhaps more significantly, Mr Neil Kinnock's signal failure to exploit the occasion to the Opposition's advantage) demonstrated the influence of politics on the exchange rate.

In these circumstances, the Bank of England may well feel it has cause for self-congratulation. As the Westland affair ran up to its moment of parliamentary crisis, the Bank managed to hold interest rates steady, despite market pressure for the second rise in a single month. Even before Mrs Thatcher subjected herself to the parliamentary routine of debate on Monday, the markets had come to accept the Bank's position, and money market rates had eased.

Clearly, the Bank of England wanted to stave off a further rise in interest rates in advance of a difficult meeting of the oil producers' cartel. There was a clear danger of stepping on to an interest-rate escalator, up which the monetary authorities would be obliged

to move after every hiccup in the foreign exchange markets. The Bank successfully resisted these pressures. Yet this episode has had its costs.

Most evidently, the notion that the market should rule, so dear to Government spokesmen, has been shown to bear little relation to real political life. The Bank of England firmly refused, for several days, to endorse the market's view of interest rates. Thus the questions crowd even more thickly around Mr Nigel Lawson's intentions as regards monetary policy.

After last January's sterling crisis, it had seemed plain that the confusion surrounding domestic monetary targets was to be kept in check by a firm exchange-rate policy. When Mr Lawson endorsed a rise in interest rates early in January, this principle still appeared dominant. Then, the Chancellor seemed to have changed his mind. Last week alone, the exchange rate was permitted to slide some five per cent.

With hindsight, this can now be presented as a tactical decision which does not affect the strategic, long-term aim of maintaining the exchange rate in order to keep inflation on a downward path. Alternatively, it can be seen as part of a strategy designed to allow the pound to adjust to a lower oil price in a way which does not conflict with the Government's counter-inflationary intentions.

These soothing bromides, however, take no account of the need for a clear exchange-rate policy in circumstances where domestic monetary policy is singularly unclear. The past

three weeks have demonstrated the costs of uncertainty. Between now and the Budget, the Government must decide how to inject some clarity into this key aspect of its economic policy. It must, in particular, decide how this clarity can best be maintained as a general election increases the probability and frequency of political storms.

No longer does the Chancellor have a simple set of domestic monetary targets to proclaim. Life, government and economic policy have passed on beyond such straightforward disciplines, and the markets know that the monetary authorities are converted to a judgmental approach to the money numbers. Thus confidence and clarity must depend on the Government's approach to the exchange rate.

The markets, however, are also well aware that the British Government alone cannot take on the forces of foreign exchange speculation. Our reserves are too small. Our economic weight in the world, indeed, is too slight. Only within a wider framework of currency support can Britain hope for a modicum of stability.

Europe, of course, offers just such a framework within its own monetary system - a system which includes all members of the European Community except Britain and the second-rank newcomers. Mrs Thatcher can only take the strategic decision to enter before the start of serious election politics puts a freeze on policy-making. If nothing else, the difficulties of the past three weeks should have reminded Mrs Thatcher how little real time remains.

Crown immunity and hygiene

From the Chief Executive of Institution of Environmental Health Officers

Sir, Whether removal of Crown immunity would have prevented the Stanley Royd tragedy (report, January 22) is now something of an academic point as the concern must be to prevent a recurrence. That it can, and I fear, will recur is fundamentally due to the continuance of an archaic system of protection from prosecution which has resulted in inadequate funding of hospital catering services over many years.

The recent survey of 1,000 hospital kitchens carried out by my institution revealed an appalling catalogue of neglect, as your leader article of January 23 made clear. The survey showed by far the most common problem to be unsatisfactory premises and equipment and only in a minority of kitchens were food handling techniques - the reported cause of the Stanley Royd outbreak - found to be unsatisfactory.

Substantial funds will be required to ensure full compliance with even present food hygiene regulations, once Crown immunity is removed, but that reality cannot be allowed to deter the Government from taking what must now be unquestionably the right decision by removing Crown immunity from the National Health Service.

The fundamentals of good food hygiene practice are well understood, only the threat of statutory enforcement - and that includes closure through the courts of the worst kitchens - will bring about the necessary commitment of all those responsible for the provision of hospital catering services.

Florence Nightingale said the primary objective of hospitals was to prevent patients becoming worse and the continued presence of Crown immunity prevents the achievement of that fundamental aim.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. TANNER,
Chief Executive,
The Institution of Environmental Health Officers,
Chadwick House,
Rushworth Street, SE1.

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust

Sir, The issue of Crown immunity raised by the Stanley Royd hospital inquiry and your subsequent leader (January 23) has important implications for the prison service. The incidence of communicable disease (particularly hepatitis) amongst prisoners appears to be increasing. Moreover, evidence gathered by the independent Prisons Inspectorate suggests that prison kitchens frequently breach the principles of good hygiene.

For example, the storing together of cooked and uncooked meats (which features in the Stanley Royd report) has been revealed at several prisons including Wormwood Scrubs, Brixton and Manchester. The

inspectorate has also made severe criticisms of the standards of cleanliness and food handling in prison kitchens.

No doubt appropriate remedial action has followed each of the inspectorate's reports. However, the time-scale of these reports is such that a prison is only likely to be properly inspected once every eight or 10 years. Lifting Crown immunity from the prisons would at least ensure the ready access of environmental health officers who are currently not permitted to enter prison establishments.

There is no question that prison conditions play a substantial part in the incidence of ill-health amongst prisoners. The removal of Crown immunity would be one part of a wider strategy to ensure that standards of hygiene in our goals match those in the outside world. If Crown immunity is an unacceptable feature of the management of NHS hospitals it is certainly no more defensible given the publicly acknowledged decrepitude of our prisons.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW, Director,
Prison Reform Trust,
Nuffield Lodge,
Regents Park, NW1.

From Mr Jack Ashley, MP for Stoke-on-Trent South (Labour)

Sir, You claim in your editorial (January 23) that the Labour Opposition, in a "masterly display of political lazier, is demanding an end to Crown immunity as the seemingly pat answer to the appalling state of far too many NHS kitchens."

This is not so. No Labour MP has claimed that the abolition of Crown immunity is a pat answer to this menace to patients' health and lives. It is, however, an indispensable necessity to begin to make hospital kitchens safe places.

You say that hospital kitchens have always been low down on the list of priorities for capital spending and that management must take a major responsibility. This is indisputable, but if management was denied immunity from prosecution, and faced the same criminal proceedings as hotels, the priorities and standards would change very quickly.

Despite the environmental health officer's claim that the condition of the Stanley Royd hospital would not have warranted prosecution, it is inconceivable that management would take the risk with kitchen hygiene, which led to 19 deaths, if the kitchen could have been legally closed. A hospital cannot function without a kitchen and the first responsibility of a health authority is to keep a hospital functioning. Fear of prosecution would have been the spur, and possibly the saviour, at Stanley Royd and many other hospitals.

Yours faithfully,
JACK ASHLEY,
House of Commons.

that the former can only appear in a limited range of courts.

3. In certain kinds of case - pleas of guilty in the crown court are the most common example - clients would be better served by having as their advocates solicitors who are familiar with their history and background. At least these clients should be able to choose between a trusted solicitor and an unknown barrister briefed on the night before the case.

4. A common education and training programme is obviously sensible. Barristers should have a general training, before claiming to be specialists. At present graduates fresh out of university have to choose whether to be a barrister or a solicitor, without having any experience on which to make an informed choice.

5. Finally, it would be possible for all legal trainees to receive adequate pay. At present my own chambers alone offer pupil-barristers a decent income (starting at £6,500 a year). All an "award" of £1,000-1,500 to cover their first year. Over two thirds of chambers offer nothing at all. As a result the Bar remains predominantly a profession of financially privileged recruits - another detriment to the public interest.

Yours faithfully,
GIFORD,
35 Wellington Street, WC2.
January 22.

Academic retreat

From Dr Paul Magdalino

Sir, In a rare editorial (January 22) devoted to the subject of higher education, you had the chance to develop what you recognise to be "the not unreasonable point that British university education is expensive but that the quality of its graduates, its scholarship and research more than counterbalances". Instead, you chose to castigate the Association of University Teachers for its complicity in an attempted "act of academic vandalism". In so doing, you added a kick in the teeth to the slaps in the face which the Government routinely administers to my colleagues and myself, regardless of our professional ethics.

I do not sympathise with the disinstitution of academics to international conferences.

The Times regrets that it is unable to reply to correspondents whose letters have not been selected for publication.

whether they come from South Africa or from any other part of left or right. I also have misgivings about "industrial action" in a profession which is not strictly speaking an industry. Nevertheless, I am with the AUT as long as it continues to fight to prevent the academic tradition in which I grew up from being thrown to the wolves of the free market, and as long as it campaigns to bring my living standards in line with those of the people on whose goods and services I depend.

I joined what you call the "rather ineffective day of action", fully realizing that it might be ineffective because it was not meant to be disruptive. Are your readers - and your printers - now to infer that disruption is the only kind of action which speaks louder than words?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL MAGDALINO,
Department of Mediaeval History,
University of St Andrews,
St Andrews,
Fife.

Shopping on Sundays

From Mr Francis Buttle

Sir, The debate about Sunday shopping is following very similar lines to those in New Zealand when, in 1980, Saturday trading was legalised.

It was suggested by its opponents that it would push up prices, threaten the traditional weekend of sport and family activities, change the nation's social life, make it necessary to pay staff double time, spread five days' trading over six, force banks and post offices to open to cope with the needs of retailer and shopper, deplete the nation's energy stocks, depersonalise shopping and increase the incidence of shop robbery. In fact, none of this occurred and the consumer, very much in favour of the innovation, had his way.

At the time, as an academic based in New Zealand, I conducted research to find out why people make shopping trips. There was much more to it than the mere acquisition of goods. The findings showed that shopping is a means of killing time, relaxing, exercising, stimulating the senses, expressing a mood, acquiring information, socialising and breaking out of a routine.

What is interesting about this list of shopping motives, is that they also appear, *prima facie*, to explain why some people attend church: the motives, benefits and satisfactions are identical. It is therefore highly probable that Sunday trading will diminish church attendance.

It is debatable whether such an effect is to be deplored or welcomed. Would it not encourage the Church to take its ministry to the people, rather than the people to its ministry? Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS BUTTLE,
Department of Management Studies for Tourism and Hotel Industries,
University of Surrey,
Guildford,
Surrey,
January 21.

Trial for fraud

From Professor Glanville Williams

Sir, Mr Bridges-Adams (January 23) suggests that the removal of trial by jury in fraud cases would create "a most invidious distinction" between different defendants. Perhaps this depends on where one sees the invidiousness.

If I were charged with an offence of which I was innocent, I would not consider it invidious to be tried by a judge and three or four magistrates, the latter carefully chosen for intelligence and backbone, and convicting only by unanimous and reasoned decision. On the contrary, I would regard it as invidious to be forced to rely on the verdict of a randomly-selected group of people.

Exceptionally, however, I might prefer trial by jury if I were charged with one of certain controversial crimes such as obscenity, industrial violence, sedition and mercy-killing, where the jury may acquit not only because they think the case not proven but also because they disagree with the law.

If, on the other hand, I was guilty, I would choose trial by jury every time. Certainly I would do so in a complicated fraud case.

Your correspondent refers to the jury as being particularly qualified to decide the question of dishonesty, which arises in charges of property offences. Whether a general defence of honesty should be allowed (as it is in the present law) is a question on its own. I was a member of the committee (the Criminal Law Revision Committee) that recommended the introduction of this defence, but we did not foresee that the jury would be left to make an unfettered decision upon it.

We expected the judge to give firm guidance according to the facts of the case. Since he does not do so, there is some danger that jury verdicts may lower the standards of honesty upon which we have traditionally insisted.

For this reason, I now think that allowing the general defence was a mistake, though there should be specific defences of honesty, carefully defined. These specific defences could as well be applied by the proposed "Roskill" tribunal as by a jury.

Yours faithfully,
GLANVILLE WILLIAMS,
Jesus College, Cambridge

Staying power

From Mr O.B. Silver

Sir, Let me be forgotten, may I add a tribute to that unknown army of knitters of comforts for the troops, particularly the maker of a balaclava with which I was issued for deck duty across the Atlantic in December, 1944.

It has ear flaps which may be raised to receive acceptable commands, and these were later inverted to admit the spout and handle of a student's teapot. It served as a helmet for one of the knightly thugs in *Murder in the Cathedral*, when books secured it to the chicken-wire surcoat. Currently, the ski slopes of Anguilla invite a return to its original function, in the manner of your correspondent's "undershirt" (January 24).

Yours faithfully,
O. B. SILVER,
6 Shorehead,
St Andrews,
Fife.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 29 1875

"On this Day" January 21 reproduced a 1975 article on the Channel tunnel. We return to the subject but this time 100 years earlier, following the signing by Britain and France of the convention in favour of the project.

You already know the effect of the Bill laid before the Assembly by the Minister of Public Works empowering the construction of a Tunnel under the Channel.

M. Thome de Gamond is then mentioned as the first who suggested the tunnel, and the examination of the scheme by Sir John Hawkshaw, one of the most eminent English engineers, is referred to. The Report proceeds to say:

"The tunnel would be composed of three distinct parts - a central part 26 kilometres long and two slopes of access of 11 kilometres, each having an incline of 12.5 and 13.15 millimetres per metre. The central portion will be slightly curved, and will be divided into two equal parts, each at an incline of 378 millimetres per metre, so as to direct their waters towards the starting-point of the access slope, whence on each side a section of reduced size would be carried about 4.6 kilometres long, and joined to each of the sections of the central part of the tunnel. These galleries would conduct the waters of the central part and those of the access slopes to the bottom of pits dug on the two coasts and furnished with pumps."

Adverting to the researches made by English engineers, the Report says: "These researches have shown that the depth of the Straits is under 60 metres. Slight as the incline is, it precedes, at least under present circumstances, the section of pipe for the construction of a bridge, but it admits the possibility of a tunnel descending by gradual slopes to the bottom of the sea, and extending the opposite shore. But for this idea to pass beyond the domain of theory it was necessary to prove that the nature of the rocks forming the bed of the Straits did not impede the realisation of such an enterprise; that is to say, that a passage could be opened through strata sufficiently yielding to be easily cut through, sufficiently firm to avoid the danger of slips, sufficiently compact to be protected from the irruption of the sea waters. The geological examination which has been made affords a presumption that this is the case."

After observing that the white chalk with flints is fissured and might admit the water, and that the underlying gray chalk would have to be cut through at a depth of about 40 metres, the Report remarks that the gradient slope of the bottom of the Straits seems to exclude the idea of an interruption of the gray chalk by more ancient rocks or by any large fissure, there being reason to believe that the geologically recent opening of the Straits is due to simple erosion, resulting, perhaps, from a change in the condition of the neighbouring seas. The Minister of War consents to the work on condition of the definitive project being examined by the Military Engineers, who will consider the measures to be taken to suspend the use of the Tunnel in case of need; while the Minister of Marine also agrees to it, reserving all the political, military, and economical questions involved. The British Government, by a despatch dated the 26th ult., has given its adhesion to the arrangements proposed by France, subject to some conditions with which the French Government will not fail to comply. The Report then explains the provisions of the Bill. As to the maximum of 20 years allowed for the completion of the work, it says there is every reason to expect a much shorter term.

As for the right of suspending the traffic on war being imminent, it is implied in international law; but England thought this right should be inserted in the scheme, stipulating also that its exercise should give no right of indemnity.

Serving one's term

From Miss C.F.E. Davis

Sir, I refer to the late General Sir Gordon MacMillan, MacMillan, Millan (obituary, January 23).

In 1911 the debating society of this school discussed the motion, "That this House considers that life is too short." The arguments were summarised in the school magazine as follows:

Hon Proposer: Life is rather a strange subject to discuss: it is not long enough for us to make use of our opportunities, e.g. many great men have made discoveries and died before their publication. Men often die before their children grow up and leave them unprovided for.

Hon Opposer: The present duration of life is just right. Quoted from the Psalms "three score years and ten," but showed by scientific statistics that it was only 65. What is the use of old men when they cannot carry on business and are nothing but gaily busybodies? We are all sent here with some definite purpose to fulfil before death. Those who praise old age seldom attain it.

The Hon Proposer, R.A. Wright, was killed in action in 1918.

The Hon Opposer was Gordon MacMillan, who died this week aged 89.

Yours faithfully,
CATHERINE DAVIES,
Secretary to the Headmaster,
St Edmund's School,
Canterbury,
Kent,
January 24.

Relatively speaking

From Mr C.H.H. Bloor

Sir, I know a little boy of 31: years old who lives with his parents and can boast that all four of his grandparents are alive and that seven of his eight great-grandparents are still alive. Incidentally, all 14 *dramatis personae* live in Brighthelmsea. Can you beat that?

Yours faithfully,
C. W. H. BLOOR,
34 Hurst Green,
Brighthelmsea,
Essex,
January 24.

هكذا من الليل

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هكذا من الأفضل

THE ARTS

Marcia Warren, who opens in *Blithe Spirit* at the Vaudeville tomorrow, follows in awesomely distinguished footsteps as the Madame Arcati of the Eighties: interview by Sheridan Morley

Seriously eccentric

"On Friday May the second I caught a morning train from Paddington bound for Port Meirion in North Wales. For some time past, an idea for a light comedy had been rattling at the door of my mind, and I thought the time had come to let it in and show a little courtesy... for six days I worked from eight to one each morning and from two to seven each afternoon. On Friday evening, May the ninth, the play was finished and, disdaining archness and false modesty, I will admit that I knew it was witty, I knew it was well constructed and I also knew that it was going to be a success."

The year was 1941, the playwright Noel Coward and the comedy *Blithe Spirit* which ran on through the war for a total of 1,997 performances: why they never played the extra week and established the two thousand is a mystery unexplained in Coward's Diaries, nor did it seem curious to him that a comedy about sudden death and voices beyond the grave should have done so well in a time of sudden death, unless it was precisely that wartime audiences in imminent danger of losing loved ones liked the idea of tangible ghosts.

Blithe Spirit was Coward's greatest commercial success; indeed its longevity record was only recently beaten by *The Mousetrap*. It was also of course the comedy which, on stage as on screen, established Margaret Rutherford as the first Madame Arcati in a chin-quivering performance which was to hallmark her career in much the way that Lady Bracknell hallmarked that of Edith Evans. Since then there have however been other Arcatis, notably Beryl Reid in the last (1970) West End revival and

Elizabeth Spriggs in the Pinter production at the National in 1976.

But now we have an Arcati for the Eighties: Marcia Warren, winner of last year's Olivier award as the terrifyingly gentle tap-dancing lady in *Stepping Out*, opens at the Vaudeville tomorrow in a new *Blithe Spirit* which also stars Simon Cadell with Jane Asher and Joanna Lumley as his present and late wives. How difficult, even forty years on, is it to tackle the memories of Rutherford?

"If you ever thought about that," says Miss Warren, "you'd never get yourself to rehearsal, which is precisely why I avoided seeing the film at the NTF last month. Once, up at Scarborough, I had to play Lady Bracknell for Alan Ayckbourn and your first thought is why bother, when it's been done to perfection by somebody else already? But then you start to look at the play and you realize there are other ways of approaching a part, especially after forty years. I'd done a certain amount of Coward in rep, of course, but I'm not as used to him as I am to Ayckbourn and I find him much more difficult to play. Alan really only gives you in his scripts one way to play a character. Coward gives you a whole set of alternatives."

A quintessentially jokey lady of indeterminate early middle age, Miss Warren is the eldest of three unmarried daughters of a Gas Board executive who worked his way up from meter-reading to management and a mother who still dresses up as a showman on festive occasions. There was however no formal theatrical background, or at least not until she found herself playing Sir Oliver

Marston at Watford Grammar School.

"They said: you want to act? Speech therapy, my girl, that's what you do. So I ignored that and auditioned for LAMDA: they gave me a speech with 35 lines in it and I died 35 times, so they didn't seem terribly keen on taking me in. Then I went to the Guildhall and read them a funny poem and they seemed to think that might be all right, so I went there instead and finished up with the first Gold Medal they ever gave anyone. I really got it for fencing, or at least not the fencing itself but being the only one in my class to be there for the lessons at 9.30 every morning. They said my parries were beyond belief."

Through the Guildhall generation of Michael Jayston and Lynn Farleigh, Miss Warren found herself playing a succession of very old people: "I was always the Oxfam parts, no cheekbones or jawlines, aged and/or infirm in thick stockings and the kind of clothes that not even an actress would buy second-hand afterwards. At 19 I was already being Willy Loman's wife in *Death of a Salesman*, and through all my years in Rep I invariably had a deeper voice than the juvenile lead."

"I spent fully fifteen years in Rep, acting, prompting, stage-managing, the lot. If you really want to act, you have to start by being an appalling stage manager: if you're any good on the book, they leave you there. Luckily I wasn't: I managed to play 'God Save the Queen' during an entire opening scene at Canterbury, and another time I took the curtain up during the interval of an Agatha Christie thriller and there were the entire cast on stage, including several corpses, all



enjoying a nice quiet cup of tea watched aghast by the audience."

"But then thank God one night, when I was at Leeds, Alan Ayckbourn came to see his *Absurd Person Singular* and asked me to join his company, though not in Scarborough; I started for him in the West End in *Joking Apart* and only then went up north with him. I think I'm the only actress ever to have done it that way round, which is kind of typical of my whole career. Then I came back to London with him for *Season's Greet-*

ings and that was two years of my life."

Nor has she been exactly inactive since: last year, while playing *Stepping Out* in the West End, she managed no fewer than four television sitcom series and a film for David Puttnam, not to mention a Christmas season in music-hall at Sonning. "It does seem to have been a busy time, but actresses like me usually get to work a lot because nobody ever knows quite who we are. But my ambition is to be in everything, so it helps not to be too recognizable."

"Last year I bought my first-ever flat in Richmond. It is a deeply emotional experience to stand in your own kitchen and hear voices from another room and know that it's not neighbours but people you've actually asked in. Also I had to leave the last flat because of all the noise I made learning how to tap-dance. Luckily there's no tap-dancing in *Blithe Spirit*: one just has to make Arcati as seriously eccentric as possible." And that, for Miss Warren, should not be too much of a problem.

Concerts
Passionate fires

Kovacic/O'Connor
St John's/Radio 3

Elgar's late chamber works in general radiate an autumnal, almost resigned quality, but the Violin Sonata stands slightly apart. At some point this 1918 composition does seem fragmentary and hesitant, as though reflecting national unease and private grief. But elsewhere shades of the buoyant old Elgar assert themselves: here the composer seems musically to be foreshadowing Dylan Thomas's exhortation to "rage against the dying of the light".

In the violinist Ernst Kovacic's hands fiery passions certainly raged through much of the work. Kovacic does not apply rubato or portamento as liberally as the virtuosi of Elgar's day would have done, but in other respects his was a grandly romantic account. Properly flamboyant and exceptionally accurate when surmounting the technical challenges, even so he displayed a wide gamut of tonal colour, from a sweet and tuneful top to a velvety, boundlessly expressive use of the G-string.

But he was aware, too, of the Sonata's darker side, emphasizing the feeling of instability and elusiveness at the edges of the Romance by abrupt alterations of speed and articulation. Only at the work's major-key apotheosis did Kovacic's vision seem a little bland — the quintessential Elgarian melodic leaps were rather smoothed over.

A larger problem, which also affected the performance of Prokofiev's Violin Sonata No 2, was the contribution of John O'Connor. He seemed neat enough when he could be heard; but neither Elgar nor Prokofiev expected the pianist to be a junior partner in these sonatas, and the music is certainly diminished when the violinist (whether by acoustical trick or because of a stronger personality) assumes such a dominant role.

Nevertheless, the Prokofiev had its excitement. Kovacic's thrusting and volatile readings of the mercurial Scherzo and the finale were complemented by some resourceful variations in timbre for the Andante's deliberately simplistic contours.

Richard Morrison

Academy of
Ancient Music
Elizabeth Hall

The cool, clear, small voice of Emma Kirkby is still the cause of much dispute. Either you adore it, it seems, or you hate it. In this concert, given by a small-sized Academy of Ancient Music without their usual director, Christopher Hogwood, the cantatas that Miss Kirkby sang caused me to react in both ways. I almost hated her Handel *Alpses monte*, but her Vivaldi *In furore* was perfectly stunning.

In the Handel, her very refinement seemed inappropriate. The words of the opening recitative, for example, surely demand a more luxuriant treatment, but their own sonorities, so perfectly reflected in their musical setting, seemed to be missed entirely. And there could have been more light and shade in the singing as a whole. The dynamic level was unvaried, the effect on the whole anaesthetizing.

There was little choice but for her to do differently in the Vivaldi, however, for its two outer arias are fiery outbursts that demand an all-or-nothing approach, and got it. From the very opening it was evident that we were to be given a virtuosic exhibition of singing that you simply had to warm to, whether or not you like Kirkby's vocal timbre. Her athletic, violinistic arpeggios were in every way a match for the strings themselves, and the slow central aria, an exquisite movement with several moments of effective word-painting, unfolded with wondrous deliberation.

The remainder of the concert was devoted to some of Vivaldi's pure instrumental concerti, with the Academy's violinists taking turns at playing the solo role and joining forces for two concerti for four violins. The results were, frankly, a little mixed. Alison Bury seemed to find the E major concerto, Op 3 No 12, a little hard going, while John Holloway's intonation in the E flat concerto, Op 8 No 5, was a little shaky. Monica Huggett showed much more confidence and nerve with her stylish Op 4 No 9 in F, playing also with a razor-sharp sense of rhythm. But the most elegantly turned performance was Catherine Mackintosh's in Op 3 No 10 in B minor.

Carlo Gébler

Stephen Pettitt

Theatre
The Oven-Glove Murders
Bush

In the first half of this short comedy Nick Darkie gives us neat reversals and long, batty speeches that show up his monomaniacal characters for the awful specimens they are. Whizz-kid video producer, pawky Yorkshire playwright and self-doubting director — hitherto noted for his pot-noodle adverts — assemble in a high-tech Soho office. The playwright has sent in a deep and meaningful script in which a home-cooking husband strangles his bread-winning wife with the symbol of his bondage.

The street-wise mini-magistrate persuades him to pen an even deeper and yet more meaningful idea about a Greenham Common protestor who falls in love with a soldier on the inside — "They make love through the wire". She is renounced by her lesbian colleagues, he



Opaque relationship: Sazanna Hamilton and Philip Jackson

revenge her death in some fashion I failed to catch through the laughter, and eventually goes off to the Falkland Islands to find fulfillment in sheep. This is hopeful stuff. The author is clearly familiar with the grotesqueness of the film industry, where options are preceded by options on options. Characters are taken

character that stays through out in a state of tension Tim Roth, and the director, Mike Bradwell, keep him monstros but credible, and link the crazy talk to some kind of reality. It is a serious loss when this lad falls out of the window in the second half, by which time the play itself is nose-diving and shortly thereafter crashes.

Perhaps we have witnessed someone commit a real oven-glove murder, but the relationship between the whizz-kid and his cool wife (Suzanna Hamilton) remains opaque. The Yorkshireman (Philip Jackson) also has to undergo an ill-explained change of nature. All that spirited writing of the first half vanishes and disappointment is the keener.

But in that first half there is treasure. Mark Wing-Davey's playing of the blathering, mother-troubled director edges us further into the style of caricature — but then it is not unknown for your true film-director to do the same.

Jeremy Kingston

Nico Ladenis (Take Six Cooks, Channel 4) did an aptitude test when he left university and was told he was anarchic and should work for himself. He taught himself to cook and now he runs restaurants which have earned two stars in the *Michelin Guide*. His hallmark is the attention he pays to sieving and blending. Here he was shown making a *consommé de champignons* and commented, as the former fireman who will tackle anything legal. In this week's episode, *Answers to the Name of Watson*, the hero was a lion. As Boon was shown kidnapping it back from animal rights activists, with only a collar and chain to control the animal, a real degree of anxiety was provoked. Other blood-and-thunder programmes could well learn from *Boon* that a

simple narrative device can do more than gore. *Boon's* *Holiday* (Granada) is a game-show — but what a game-show! The structure is complicated and the technology sophisticated. On the other hand the competitors in this week's episode — musicians, whisky-blenders and building-society managers — were very sober. The same could be said of Julian Pettifer, the quiz-master. He was undemonstrative, and did not even seem to take pleasure in his Wogan-like streams of verbal fancy. Whether or not the show is a deliberate attempt on the part of Granada to combine English reserve with the razzmatazz of American game-shows, the result is a bizarre hybrid of flashy style and restrained content.

Carlo Gébler

Television
Blended sweetly

Boon (Boon, Central), played by Michael Elphick, is yet another spin-off from the tradition, as the former fireman who will tackle anything legal. In this week's episode, *Answers to the Name of Watson*, the hero was a lion. As Boon was shown kidnapping it back from animal rights activists, with only a collar and chain to control the animal, a real degree of anxiety was provoked. Other blood-and-thunder programmes could well learn from *Boon* that a

The American "Western" is a potent myth which is infinitely malleable. Ken

Opera

First thoughts vindicated

Stiffelio/Aroldo
La Fenice, Venice

In 1850 Piave, subsequently the librettist of *Rigoletto* and *Traviata*, proposed *Stiffelio* to Verdi as a possible subject for a collaboration between them. It is the story of a Protestant minister who discovers that his wife has been unfaithful to him during his prolonged absence on a preaching mission. Verdi was enthusiastic about this departure from the usual operatic subjects of his day and composed the music with alacrity; but at the first performance the censor insisted that *Stiffelio* must be a layman, and that many religious references and crucial dramatic phrases be removed.

In this emasculated form the opera was not a success, and seven years later Verdi recast it, using substantially the same music, in a form which was unobjectionable to the censor. *Stiffelio* became Aroldo, an English crusader, and the church scene was replaced by a reconciliation on the banks of Loch Lomond. Aroldo was more warmly received than *Stiffelio*, and it was in this amended form that the opera was occasionally performed until the rediscovery of the score of *Stiffelio*, which had its modern premiere at Parma in 1968.

La Fenice in Venice has now given us a chance to judge for ourselves the

respective merits of the two works by performing them both on the same evening, conducted and staged by the same team. This was an excellent opportunity in principle, but the devisers of the project were somewhat disingenuous in the realization of their intention to allow a fair comparison. They clearly decided that *Stiffelio* is the stronger, more unified work, and stacked the odds in its favour to make this conclusion inescapable.

Pier Luigi Pizzi provided a restrained, effective production and some sets for *Stiffelio*, whereas the characters in Aroldo were presented in a two-dimensional way. It is true that Aroldo's gratuitous medieval setting and the introduction of a character called Briano, a pious hermit, sometimes makes the work seem like a Monty Python send-up of an Italian opera (*Life of Brian*), but a director should try to divert attention from an uneven work's weaknesses rather than accentuate them.

Stiffelio was also more strongly cast than its successor. Rosalind Flowerright, although not on her best form, gave a powerful and convincing portrayal of Lina, the erring wife. Her ability to colour and project every note of her part to fill out personality is outstanding — there is never a hint of the stock operatic about the characters she creates. Antonio Barasorda coped with most of the tenor title-role's demands, and was always

alert to dramatic nuance. And Brent Ellis was a good Stankar, Lina's honour-obsessed father.

Lina's counterpart in Aroldo was sung by Sandra Paoletti, who has a strong, secure top but lacks weight in the lower registers (crucial in this part), and belongs to the brow-smithing school of acting. Jesus Pinto looked a dashing crusader but his singing was ugly and unmusical. Antonio Salvadori was a smooth-toned father, but was ultimately defeated by the part's unusually high tessitura. Both works were fiercely conducted by Eliahu Inbal.

In spite of the disparity of treatment accorded to the two works, it became evident that *Stiffelio* is indeed the better opera — its strongest feature is the music. Verdi wrote specifically for *Stiffelio*, which vividly characterizes a passionate man barely managing to keep violent emotions under control. A long, poignant scene between father and daughter is common to both works, anticipating *Traviata* but having a strong flavour of its own.

In Aroldo the musical gains include an expanded and more memorable role for the soprano, a good storm and a superb final quartet of reconciliation. But it is not surprising that music composed in response to a particular libretto should lose much of its dramatic conviction when transferred in chunks to a different story.

Nigel Jamieson

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ATOMISSEUR

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GEC chief answers critics with £1.2bn bid for Plessey

Weinstock back in the takeover arena

COMPANY NEWS

Valin builds loyal customer base

Lord Weinstock of Bowden in the County of Wiltshire, the man who hit the headlines in the 1960s with his speech-making takeovers of English Electric and AEI, is back in the public eye.

GEC has bid £1.2 billion for Plessey. The bid, now on ice as it was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, was a dramatic riposte to his critics, who have been arguing for several years that GEC had lost its sense of direction. He can claim to have been biding his time, waiting for the right moment to pounce.

Lord Weinstock has a reputation for being almost obsessively parsimonious with GEC's money, refusing to pay more than he considers is the right price. That attitude was ingrained in him at an early stage in his career. He was born in 1924 in north London. His father Simon, a Polish emigre who earned his living as a tailor, died just five years later.

Arnold Weinstock was orphaned soon afterwards and was brought up by his elder brother, who was a hairdresser. He was evacuated in 1939 to the Midlands, to stay in the home of a man who worked for AEI. Despite the disruption, his obvious aptitude for figures won him a place at the London School of Economics and then Cambridge, to read statistics. "I didn't enough background to do mathematics," he says modestly.

He acquired his early financial skills in the fast-moving world of Mayfair property in the late 1940s. His brother found him a job with Lewis Scott, the property developer and company doctor.

Arnold Weinstock soon became versed in the art of reading balance sheets, and more importantly he had drilled into him the three iron rules for rescuing ailing companies. First, cut costs. Secondly, cut costs. Thirdly, cut more costs.

In 1949 he made what was to become arguably the most important decision of his life, to marry Netta, the daughter of Michael Sobell, one of the pioneers in making television sets on a mass scale.

Sobell sold his brand name and business to EMI, but bought back the factory and started a new company, Radio and Allied Industries. In 1954, as he was gearing up

to cope with the expected boom on the arrival of commercial television, he brought his son-in-law into the family business.

Arnold Weinstock, by now 30 and with some business experience under his belt, found what he described as "a small business which had little money, a clapped-out Royal Ordnance factory in south Wales and old plant, but loyal managers and a workforce of decent people."

His single-minded drive to cut costs soon led to Radio and Allied becoming one of the industry's leaders. Every item of expenditure was queried and either Weinstock or his father-in-law signed every cheque. From their partnership also stemmed a passion for horse-breeding.

His reputation spread so quickly that when GEC fell on hard times in 1961 it took over Radio and Allied for £8.5 million so that Weinstock could come and run the combined group. That was the springboard which enabled him to revolutionize the UK electrical industry.

That campaign reached its peak in 1967 and 1968 when he persuaded the then Labour Government to let him take over English Electric and AEI, using the argument that the three-way merger was necessary to give Britain an electrical company capable of competing with the world's giants like Siemens, Philips and General Electric of the US.

Restructuring of British industry was very much in the air under the aegis of Harold Wilson's Industrial Reorganisation Corporation, who acted as the midwife for spectacular fashion when GEC began to declare thousands of redundancies following the mergers.

Of course, it put Harold Wilson in an embarrassing position politically. But it also exposed Weinstock to public criticism in a way he had never experienced before, and earned him a reputation for butchering jobs that hurt more than he cared to admit. The scars did much to deter him from embarking on further large-scale mergers. If public infamy was to be the reward for making industry competitive, then why bother doing more than ensuring that GEC's existing business was run as well as possible?

But in adopting that atti-



Weinstock: making the headlines again

tude, Lord Weinstock was to store up for himself a quite unpredictable series of criticisms of a quite different cast.

By generating ever more massive products which were neither ploughed back into the business nor used to finance takeovers, the company in recent years has amassed a cash mountain of £1.6 billion. Most of it has been invested in gilt-edged stock, and Weinstock points out that therefore the cash is ultimately spent by the Government in what should be useful directions. But "Arnie's Army" of fans in the City have grown impatient for him to do something with the money himself.

Ironically, Weinstock's absence from the takeover arena was not entirely of his own doing. More than 10 years ago he tried to buy Cable and Wireless from the Government, but was rebuffed. Crucial to Weinstock's outlook during this period was his long-running relationship with Sir Kenneth Bond, his colleague and finance director. At one time sitting across from one another in the same

room, then working in adjoining rooms, they would kick around the stream of ideas presented to them by GEC's seemingly endless supply of talented executives.

But as the years wore on they found it easier to find reason for not pushing into new areas, or not taking a more public stance.

Last year probably displayed Weinstock at his most hesitant. GEC bought 3 per cent of the shares in Distillers, the Johnnie Walker whisky and Gordon's gin combine now being sought by James Gulliver's Argyll Group and Guinness.

This was accompanied by an offer to use GEC manage-

ment to help to sort the spirits company's strategic problems. The offer was spurned.

It was at about this time that Weinstock hit a low point in his relations with Mrs Thatcher. The board of "the GEC", as Weinstock likes to refer to it, had over the years been populated by a succession of what would nowadays be classified as "Tories" like Lord Aldington, Lord Carrington and the current chairman, James Prior.

Weinstock then entered into a public row with the prime minister over the privatization of British Tele-

communications, which he argued in the House of Lords and elsewhere was being given too much monopoly power in its private company shape. As a friendly gesture towards British Aerospace, he called GEC with the European consortium vying for Westland - perhaps the most significant political takeover contest in modern times.

But 1985 has seen Weinstock beginning to stir GEC into action. This was not unconnected with the retirement of Bond in February. "Kenneth and I have worked in tandem," he said at the time. "Now I have just the bicycle, and a lot of other chaps are getting their bicycles too."

That translated into the decision to set up a 25-strong Board of UK Management, which many outsiders saw as a means of putting potential successors to Weinstock through their paces at close to the highest level.

Then he set up a vehicle to deploy large chunks of the cash mountain. Called GEC Finance, it amounted to an in-house merchant bank designed to seek out new investment opportunities.

The bid for Plessey, though, represents a resurgence of the old Weinstock. One of his main motives is to forge a UK telecommunications equipment maker capable of rivaling any in the world, and he has warned that any resulting waste will be instantly attacked.

At 61, Lord Weinstock is still a long way from contemplating retirement. But the successful blending of Plessey into GEC's own telecommunications operation could be his last legacy to be handed on to the next generation. It should also demonstrate his underrated ability to create as well as wield the knife.

William Kay

Valin Pollen International, the public relations consultancy, has managed an 80 per cent client retention rate in its six years of existence - one of the highest rates achieved in the industry - according to the chairman, Mr Reg Valin, in the annual report.

The rapid expansion of the company means it will be seeking additional office space this year. It gained new business from 40 clients last year including Laura Ashley, the Stock Exchange and the Wellcome Foundation. The new Investor Relations division had a very successful first year, contributing 10 per cent of the total income of Valin Pollen itself.

VPI made pretax profits in the year ending September 30 of £1.1 million and is expected to make at least £1.7 million this year. It is also expected to apply soon to move up from the Unlisted Securities Market to a full Stock Exchange listing.

●BLUE ARROW: Pretax profits of the staff recruitment and contract cleaning company for the year to the end of last October were £2.2 million against £411,000 last time. Sales were £34.1 million compared with £16.8 million the previous year. Brook Street Bureau which was acquired in October, is excluded from the latest figures. A final dividend of 0.8p making 1.2p per share is being recommended against 0.6p last time.

●NEWMAN TONKS: McKee Brothers, which has made a £59 million takeover bid for Newman Tonks, has bought another 4.75 million Newman shares in the stock market taking its stake to 9.5 per cent. The stock market raid is continuing.

●HILLARDS: On sales 6.9 per cent higher at £140.7 million, pretax profits of the Yorkshire supermarkets chain fell from £3.8 million to £3.6 million in the year to November 9. The

directors said that because of the cost of the new store opening programme, this year should be seen as a year of consolidation. An interim dividend of 1p is being paid against 0.85p last time.

●HOUSE OF FRASER: The 100-acre Aviemore Centre in Scotland is likely to be sold to Stakis, the hotels and leisure group. House of Fraser, the centre's owners, says Aviemore is peripheral to its main activities.

●MORGAN CRUCIBLE: Bell Resources, a company controlled by Mr Robert Holmes a Court, has a 7.1 per cent stake in Morgan Crucible, the industrial components group which is on the receiving end of a £51 million bid from First Castle Electronics.

●KLEINWORT BENSON: Standard & Poor has given Kleinwort an A1 rating for its commercial paper, making Kleinwort the first British merchant bank to receive a rating in the United States. Goldman Sachs will act as dealer for the bank.

●TV SOUTH: Pretax profits rose from £8.1 million to £8.9 million in the year to October 1985. Turnover was up 12 per cent to £111.4 million. The final dividend is 6p, making a total for the year of 8p, against 6p last year.

●GLAXO: The liquidation of Farley could cost Glaxo up to £25 million in write-offs. The problems result from an outbreak of salmonella in Farley's baby food plant. The company is now up for sale but is unlikely to raise more than £15 million against liabilities of £40 million.

●BBA GROUP AUTO: BBA has made an agreed £98.4 million bid for Automotive Products, the clutch and brake manufacturer and distributor. BBA, the Yorkshire industrial group, is offering a one-for-one share swap with Morgan Grenfell offering a 150p a share cash alternative. Holders of 34.5 per cent of AP have already accepted. BBA is forecasting that profits for 1985 will be up from £5.4 million to £12.75 million.

Tax allowances change will help young jobless

The number of part-time jobs for women continues to increase despite the high level of unemployment. By June last year, these jobs numbered 4.34 million, or about 46 per cent of all female employees.

Full-time jobs formerly undertaken by youngsters are now part-time jobs for housewives. For example, at the time of the last population census in 1981, more than 51 per cent of shop assistants were female part-time workers, compared with about 10 per cent in 1951.

There are many reasons for the substitution of part-time jobs for full-time jobs. Firms can increase efficiency by recruiting part-time workers to cope with the peak periods which arise in the service trades. Employers can also reduce their costs by using part-time workers for the hours needed to earn just below the National Insurance threshold of £35.50 a week, thereby avoiding employers' National Insurance contributions.

The part-time workers are also gain because they avoid paying employees' contributions. But the unemployed youngster seeking a full-time job as a shop assistant loses.

However, the particular cause of part-time employment considered here arises from the wife's earned income allowance for income tax, especially for the 1.8 million wives earning less than £2,205 a year. It is the tax incentive for a housewife to create household income taking a part-time job earning up to £2,205 a year cause this extra income is not liable for tax. arly, this is a powerful

incentive to increase the supply of labour.

In 1980, the Chancellor of the Exchequer issued a green paper on the taxation of husband and wife which considered a revised system of income tax allowances in which the married man's allowance would be abolished, a single person's allowance would be given to each spouse, and any unused allowance could be transferred between them.

Thus a wife who decided not to seek paid employment could transfer a tax allowance of £2,205 to her husband if she wished.

Nobody knows how many of the millions of housewives in part-time jobs would leave paid employment under the new scheme, but even if only half of them did so, a substantial number of jobs would be released for unemployed youngsters. Hence the proposed revision in income tax allowances is attractive to anyone who wishes to reduce youth unemployment.

A new green paper on this topic is under preparation and it will be interesting to see how it deals with the objections raised by a very powerful House of Lords select committee in its report on income taxation and equal treatment for men and women.

This committee accepted the evidence that the transferable tax allowance would reduce the supply of labour from married women and for this very reason it rejected transferable allowances. Implicitly it made the non-basic value judgement that decreasing the number of part-time jobs for housewives cannot be justified by the

provision of openings for unemployed young people.

Its second big objection to transferable allowances was based on privacy. When transferring any unused tax allowance to her husband, a wife would have to reveal her earnings to him.

It was noted that other countries in the European Economic Community permit the choice of transferable allowances, or of averaging spouses' incomes (as in Denmark, France and West Germany) but it was suggested that there was greater marital discord in these countries as a result of the lack of financial privacy within marriage.

Why should households in Britain be more likely to have marital discord? Why should they be refused the chance of having transferable allowances if they prefer paying less tax to retaining financial privacy?

The present system of allowances dates from the Second World War when the married women's allowance was increased to the single person's allowance to encourage wives to go out to work. If we think that we still need to encourage married women to enter the labour market, as we did in the depths of war, then we should oppose transferable allowances.

But if we think that in times of mass unemployment, especially among youngsters, we should discourage the supply of part-time labour from housewives, we should support transferable allowances. I adopt the latter view.

P E Hart

Racal profits slump

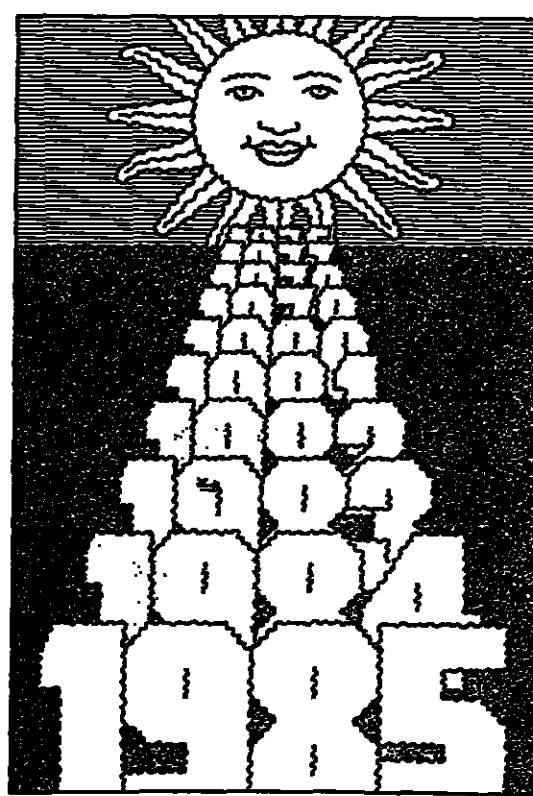
Racal reported pretax profits for the 28 weeks to October 11 of £23.2 million against £47.2 million in the corresponding period last year. However, "much of the group profit is forecast for the second half, and very satisfactory" results are predicted for 1986-87.

The chairman's July statement had forecast a reduction. It is directly attributable to the recession in the data communications industry coupled with the losses on the accelerated start-up of the cellular radio service.

The trading profit contribution from the data communications group is down by some £26 million, and the net loss on cellular radio increased by £5 million. After deducting interest on the convertible loan stock, the profit contribution from Racal-Chubb exceeded £7 million.

Turnover at £612 million was up from £449 million excluding Chubb. Excluding cellular radio, trading profit was £41 million (£53 million). A dividend will be paid on March 10.

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BASE LENDING RATES

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| 1st Bank | 12.5% |
| 2nd Bank | 12.5% |
| 3rd Bank | 12.5% |
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BANK OF ENGLAND

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

| No. | Company | Year | Share Price |
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Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £40,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

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Market at new high

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 27. Dealings End Feb 7. Contango Day, Feb 10. Settlement Day, Feb 17
 \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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Underwood hopes to be fully fit within a week

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

A black and white photograph of a large group of people, likely a sports team, posing outdoors. There are approximately 20 individuals, including men and women, arranged in three rows. Some are standing in the back, some are kneeling or sitting in the front, and others are in the middle. They are dressed in casual attire, and the background shows trees and a building.

goals". His principal role, though, will be to supply ammunition and particularly for Hateley in the air.

In midfield Robson looked initially and briefly at Rix. Armstrong and Hunt were subsequently given passing glimpses and Devonshire's promise was cut short by injury. So, apparently, was that of Cowans. After winning his seventh cap, he broke his leg in a pre-season tournament in Spain two and a half years ago. His international career seemed to have come to a close.

It is about to be re-opened, perhaps dramatically so. In the airless and exhausting

The midfield are relative strangers to each other. Wilkins, who will lead the side

fractured his cheekbone before Cowans made his debut. Within seven months they had changed places. Now for the first time the two Italian exiles are paired with Steven who has not completed any of the last nine games.

The front two of Lineker and Hateley is the only combination in today's line-up that Robson seems likely to take into the World Cup finals as his first choice. With a dozen goals between them in a mere 18 full appearances so far, they have emerged as

points out that most if not all of his representatives "can take care of themselves", is not concerned.

Yet he admits that the loss of Bryan Robson, his powerful and inspirational leader, is severe. "I saw his performance at Roker Park last Saturday and it was remarkable, quite remarkable, and it was a tragedy that he was

TEAM: P Shilton (Southampton), G Stevens (Everton), K Sansom (Arsenal), G Cowans (Barn), M Wright (Southampton), T Fenwick (QPR), T Steven (Everton), F Wilkins (AC Milan, captain), M Hateley (AC Milan), G Lineker (Everton), D Wallace (Southampton).

muscle, played in Bridgend's Welsh Cup win over Dunvant and trained with the national squad on Monday evening. Fears over the fitness of Whitefoot, the Cardiff prop, have also been allayed: he had influenza over the weekend but should take his place in the side.

Sieve Smith, the former England scrum half, has resigned as coach to the England colts after only a few months in the job. The post will be filled by another Smith, Graham, who took Cumbria to the final of the colt county championship three years ago and has considerable experience as a colts selector.

He is also Rugby Football Union senior staff coach and it is the RFU's hope that all appointments to national sides, at junior as well as senior level, may be filled by qualified senior coaches who will thereby gain experience to qualify them for higher appointments. The final of this season's colts county championship is due to be

played, weather permitting, at Dover on Saturday between Kent and Yorkshire.

The Australian schoolboys play the final game of their European tour at Twickenham today hoping to retain the unbeaten record that has led to the demand.

through the efforts of their forwards and the tackling of their centres, one of whom, young, is the captain of the side. The two halves, Dallalieu and Turton, were topped last season and Turton is said to rival the skills at scrum half (at a comparative age) of Nigel Bellville, another Wrexham player. Wrexham, Wrexham and now Wrexham's championship cap-

None of the four English regional teams to have played the Australians have had much by way of possession to show whether they can do more than defend. However, their forwards have received coaching assistance from Roger Uttley, the London senior divisional coach, and

England 18 Group: S Pilgrim (Technical College); S Hackney (South East Form College); P Young (GS, Captian); S Prince (Royal Grammar School); T Underwood (GS, Cusack); M Mastalew (Sale Grammar); A Turner (Normanton Grammar); A Sharp (St Brendons South); D Jeffery (Easter); J. Hurrenham (Sawston); J. Horrobin (Sawston).

Dean College), M Haag
(St Bre Form College), M Crane
(St Bre Form College), N
(St Bre Form College), J Bur-

views David Sole

McStay lifts the Scots

Outlaws' arrested progress

Poland's leading player, Zbigniew Boniek, curiously with AS Roma, opened up the Monterrey debate in a Polish newspaper interview earlier this year. "Those who come to Monterrey only for the second round will have about a 40 per cent advantage over us. They will come with fresh reserves of oxygen and fresh blood cells. Arriving at lower altitudes does not need big adjustment — on the contrary, it adds energy . . . I don't see Monterrey as a disadvantage. Monterrey and properly fave those teams, who will have been there in the mountains for two or three weeks. There's no chance of a quick adjustment when you go higher."

Boniek's solution would be to train at the higher altitude. "It's true that this would increase the cost, but I think it would pay off," Piechniczek disagrees, and the doctors seem to support him. "If we adopted Boniek's suggestion, we would have to adapt first to altitude, then to temperature. It's like this: Is it better to swim a river and then run up a mountain or swim a river, have a rest and then climb a mountain?" Either way, it's a gamble.

England, Piechniczek concedes, will be the toughest competitors in the group. Yet almost all of the pre-World Cup international games have been Italian or Latin American style football. The Polish squad has moved for 10 days

to Camerino, 200km outside Rome, and a few friendlies with second or third division Italian clubs have been lined up. There had been plans for games against AS Roma, Götteberg and Innsbruck, but these have fallen through. In February, the squad goes to Argentina, where some local matches and an international football tournament in Cordoba are planned. On February 16 Poland play

| | |
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| Israel | 0 |
| Scotland | 1 |

Scotland launched their countdown to the World Cup finals with a resounding victory over Israel in the eerie silence of an almost deserted Ramat Gan stadium in Tel Aviv yesterday.

Paul McCstay, whose two goals against Ireland set Scotland on the road to Mexico 15 months ago, scored again, after an hour to earn the Scots a narrow win.

McCstay, the 21-year-old Celtic midfield player, was the outstanding player on the field and one of the few successes in a Scottish team who did admittedly improve as the game progressed.

Of course, progress was made. There were excuses in that Dalgligh, Souness and McAvennie were all unavailable, but that cannot really excuse an ordinary Scottish performance.

During the opening 45 minutes, Scotland's best efforts were a seventeenth-minute free kick from Nicholson and a goal saved by Israel's goalkeeper, Ran, and a blinding quality by Miller which was equally well saved.

The second half looked like following the same pattern until there was a hint of better things to come in the 65th minute when a Bannan cross was despatched into the net by Miller, only for the effort to be ruled offside.

Scotland manager Alex Ferguson was not displeased by his team's effort. He said: "We won and that's given us confidence. This was the first match in our build-up to the World Cup Finals and we tried a new system.

"Apart from the first half our I thought we played it well and as the game progressed we got better. You've got to learn from these things before you become perfect."

The club is in Bloemfontein, a bastion of the Afrikaner. Some people advised Roberts not to go: the English, reportedly, were not popular there. In practice he found Afrikaaners got along with English South Africans better there than anywhere else.

his first season he took the club - named after their sponsors and Glasgow Celtic - to eighth place in the 18-club National League. Last season they finished third and won the country's knock-out competition, the Mainstay Cup. A crowd of 62,000 attended the final at Ellis Park in Johannesburg.

For one game at the Free State rugby stadium, Fraser's Celtic were watched by 40,000 spectators which, Roberts says, was a bigger crowd than the rugby club had attracted all season. Non-

"Blacks have taken to football in a way that they never have to rugby or cricket," Roberts says. They're supple and the majority I encounter have more talent than their counterparts in England. Blacks from all over Africa want to play in South Africa as the playing conditions here are better. We are the only professional side in the League and pay good salaries."

Roberts, aged 41, is the best-paid coach in South Africa, earning around 30,000 a year.

CRICKET

Runs are hard to find

Shaun Wane, the Wigan front-row forward, is hoping to avoid suspension when he appears before the disciplinary committee in Leeds tomorrow (Keith Macklin writes). Wane is the captain of the Great Britain Under-

\$0,000 per year), was acting as a front man of a different type to that which he displayed on the tracks around Europe last year. This summer season will be of a much different order for Cram. Last year, he was free to go in pursuit of world records, and took three of them, the 1,500m, the mile and the 2,000m before Saidouita dismissed him of first Russian origin, for

ram this year is retention of the European and Commonwealth 1,500m titles, with which he emerged as a world class winner in 1982.

The additional challenge for Cram will be an attempt to double up at 800m and 1,500m in the Commonwealth championships in Edinburgh. He said yesterday: "I've always wanted to have a go at winning an 800m championship, and the

Great Britain have dropped 10 players from the side who were surprisingly beaten 6-6 by France under-21 at St Etienne. The Wigan scrum half Michael Ford and the full forward Andy Dannatt are left out.

FOOTBALL: Mario Kempe, the top forward of the Argentine national side that won the 1978 World Cup, is scheduled to arrive in Austria last night to play for the second division club Vienna. Vienna officials said they hoped that Kempe would boost sagging attendance figures.

Smith hit 12 fours in his 76 and 219 minutes before he was bowled to the opening bowler De Silva. The England captain Mark Nicholas scored in with 18 before he was bowled by the other fast bowler Surupparachchi. The spinners De Silva, Prasad and Kaluperuma bowled tidily and troubled all the batsmen.

India win by five wickets

Adelaide (Reuters) — India's cricketers beat an Australian country XI by five wickets in a one-day match at the Adelaide Oval yesterday. After the local side had hit 181-

the local side had hit 181 or six from their 50 overs. India reached 182 for five

SCORES: Australian Country XI 181-6, 50 overs (Hogg 59, Scuderi 55). India 2-5, 41.5 overs (Malhotra 46, Sheruddin 42).

the only time I played in an English Representative side was for the students in an under-23 trial."

He is the youngest member by three years of a Scottish pack with an average age of 27 and found his first international a very physical experience, though the rewards of the one point win were great. "France had a very hefty pack and Garnet (the French tight head prop) came in a lot on Deans, slipping off my shoulder a couple of times. They were a very intimidating side to play against but I had enormous help from Deans and Milne, not only on the

That Sole coped so well is a tribute to his mentors at Exeter University and the quality of their fixtures list against raggedy Devon sides. Geoff Rees, the Cambridge blue, and George Squire, who helped with ending matches, both possession had to know the meter and not as a experier sole.

Whether duress a murder defence

Gaye Brief, the former champion hurdler, who is in action at Hereford today.

By Michael Seely

Perhaps the most contentious issue being examined is that of professionalism and where to draw the line. However, the "antis" would seem not to have too strong a case, as although spending money may bring success, success, rarely will a financial gain be shown on the investment. With prize money amounting to little more than a week's training fees in a lively, there is little chance of the balance sheet being at any time in credit.

At present, within the categories of owner-trainer, owner with employed groom, owner with horse kept in a well-looked stable, owner with a living of horses, owner with distant lively stable, owner with horses in a licensed trainer's yard, the latter only is excluded from point-to-pointing (unless owned by

Credit for bringing more money into the sport goes to the Point-to-Point Owners' Association. Their tireless efforts in this and many other aspects deserve to be rewarded by a seat on the Jockey Club point-to-point committee. The Club also administers the sport. In fact there are thoughts in some quarters that they should play the leading role.

Essential though the Jockey Club is - with Wetherbys for the office administration to prevent any skulduggery - the spirit of point-to-pointing may be better served by broader decision making. The present organisation could then address itself more directly to the graduation of point-to-point to National Hunt racing through hunter-chases.

However perfect the organisation there will al-

Michael Anthony Howe, now aged 22, was convicted at Manchester Crown Court (Mr Justice Joffe and a jury) on two counts of murder and one of conspiracy to murder. He was sentenced to custody for life on each count concurrent and Baginister to life imprisonment on each count.

James Burke, now aged 21, and William George Clarkson, now aged 39, were convicted at the Central Criminal Court (Judge David Tudor and a jury) of murder. Burke was sentenced to custody for life and Clarkson to life imprisonment with a recommendation that he serve a minimum of 15 years.

Mr Michael Self, QC and Mr Peter Crichton-Gold, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Howe; Mr Michael Self, QC and Mr Francis Burns, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Baginister; Mr Benet Hytner, QC and Mr J.R. Foster for Clarkson; Mr Michael Self, QC and Mr Roy Warne, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Burke.

Until 1975, there was a difficulty. *Kenny's Outlines of Criminal Law*, 1975 ed., para. 284, said: "It is clear that the threats of the immediate infliction of death or even of grievous bodily harm certainly will not excuse murder".

The 1975 edition (1964) p90, citing Hale 434 and 1 East PC 225, came to a similar conclusion. There was one possible exception, namely by necessity, but this was necessarily imposed by circumstances.

However, in *R v Dudley and Stephens* ((1884) 14 QBD 273), Lord Coleridge, Lord James and Lord Fry, who were dissenting, could have made it plain that a man could mean to lay down the broad proposition that a man may save his life by killing, if necessary, an innocent and unoffending neighbour. It came to the law of the present day".

The result of the House of Lords' decision in *DPP v Northern Ireland* (1975) AC 613 which was a case about the Lordships as was on the trial judges, was that duress was open as a defence to a person charged with aiding and abetting a

[illegible]

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| 3 | 2/11/11 | GOLDEN KNOOLL (Mrs McCatchie) S Malton | |
| 7 | 11 | G CHARLES-JONES | |
| 9 | 0/00002 | DANIELA Mrs S Devonport 10-10-12 | |
| 9 | 310-83 | FRID RILLINER (CJ) (in Johnson) M Soudanore 3-9-10 | |
| 10 | 0/00002 | ANGELA Mrs S Devonport 10-10-12 | |
| 10 | F/1220 | BASHFUL LAD (CJ) (in Johnson) M Soudanore 3-9-10 | |
| 10 | 4/1-221 | BARGILL Mrs J Fowler F 7-10-10 (in Johnson) M Soudanore 3-9-10 | |
| 10 | 0/00002 | ANGELA Mrs S Devonport 10-10-12 | |
| 1985 | FRP-121 | 5-11-8 P Soudanore 11-2 M Soudanore 7 ran | |
| 1985 | 4-6 Barga-1 | Casta Warden-5-Golden Knull-Golden Hornet-5-Bashful Lad-12Frid Rilliner-14 Oates | |
| 3 | 3.15 | THE FRED RIMMEL HURDLE (£1,577 2m) (6) | |
| 2 | 000000 | EMMONS OWEN (D) (Mrs A Trowbridge) 2-11-6 Jacqui Oliver (7) | |
| 4 | 244-132 | GAYE BRIEF (CJ) Sheikh Abu Khamsi Mrs M Rimmell 8-11-10 | |
| 4 | 0/00002 | ANGELA Mrs S Devonport 10-10-12 | |
| 6 | 7113202 | RIGOR NICOLAS (D) (Mrs M Rimmell) M Sirk 7-11-8 | |
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| 6 | 0/00002 | ANGELA Mrs S Devonport 10-10-12 | |
| 1985 | Bob Thack 11-5-8 | P Barton 4-8 Fay J Edwards 4 ran | |
| 1985 | Evieve Gene 4-8 | Sara Price-8-1 Gold Tycoon-8-Rudger-10 (others 6) | |
| 1985 | 2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767- | | |

By Mandarin

**1.45 Do Or Die 2.16 Echo Sounder 2.45 Bargill 3.15 Stans
Pride 3.45 ATRABATES (nap) 4.15 Boherash**

2.15 LEONMINOR NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (£2,848 2m4f)
(10)

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A F Foster 7-11-2(10) ed R Drumroyd

5 202144 MORICE (B Harnery) M J Taylor 5-1-11
4 ABERNETHY (Mrs C L Lumley) S J Edwards 9-10-10

10 010-0726 LOS STABLES (D)BYR Lewis Brown Mrs M Fitzel 8-10-8
12 202110 PETER DUREN (C Duran) G J Brown 10-10-8
10 202110 BIG STEEL (F) Byr P D Cane 5-10-5
4-14218 ASHGO (Mrs G Chadwick) F T Winter 7-10-0
10 202110 NALAN (Mrs J Hargrave) W J Hargrave G Jones
2020-30 QOSMO (R Brown) R L Brown 7-10-0
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10 010023 TIGER (Mrs J Rigby) Mrs J Rigby 8-10-0
10 010023 LENS WAY (R Carrington) K B Bridgwater 8-10-0 Worthington
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10 010023 HOPKINS (Mrs J Poole) R E Poole 8-10-0 Croft 7-10-0

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2.45 JULIO MARLINER HANDICAP CHASE (£2,603 3m1f)
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ATREYSTOWN (M Shonell) J A Edwards 8-11-12
ATREYSTOWN (M Shonell) J A Edwards 8-11-12

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| 4 | | C BARNES (G B) C Ward C J Miller | 5-11-3 |
| 5 | 340 | WRE WYNDHAM (D Graham) R J Hodges | 5-11-3 |
| 6 | 340 | WRE WYNDHAM (D Graham) R J Hodges | 5-11-3 |
| 7 | | MURAL VICTORY (M & K Parry) D B Belding | 5-11-3 R Guest (7) |
| 8 | | SPEAK NO EVIL (M & K Parry) D B Belding | 5-11-3 D Murphy |
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| 42 | | STORMY (M & K Parry) D B Belding | 5-11-3 D Murphy |
| 43 | | STORMY (M & K Parry) D B Belding | 5-11-3 D Murphy |
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Regina v Howe
Regina v Banister
Regina v Burke
Regina v Clarkson

Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Russell and Mr Justice Taylor
[Judgment given January 27]
The House of Lords is to decide whether duress can be a defence to a charge of murder as a principal in the first degree (the actual killer); whether one can be charged with murder if by duress another to kill or to be a party to a killing could be convicted of murder; if that other was the sole reason of duress and whether the defence of duress failed if the prosecution provided that a person of reasonable firmness sharing the characteristics of the defendant would not have given way to the threats as did the defend-

explain to the ordinary man and women sitting on the jury in language they could understand what the law was. The task, already difficult, would become impossible if they were obliged to consider the question what the law was but not what it ought to be but was not. That was not their business. It might be assisted by eminent writers or commentators, or by academic writers, as they had done in the case of judicial decisions. Judges should, however, be careful to disregard those parts of their writings which they thought it was their duty to be but was not.

Just as the trial judge had to decide what the present law was so had the House of Lords to decide whether the trial judge came to the right conclusion. It was no more their task than his to consider what the law ought to be.

four men convicted of murders.

Michael Anthony Howe, now aged 21, and John Derek Jones, now aged 21, were both convicted at Manchester Crown Court (Mr Justice Jupp and a jury) on two counts of murder and one of conspiracy to murder. Howe was sentenced to custody for life and Jones to custody for 21 years each count concurrent and banished to life imprisonment on each count.

Cornelius James Burke, now aged 21, and William George Cullen, now aged 21, were both convicted at the Central Criminal Court (Judge David Tudor Price, the Common Sergeant and a jury) of murder. Burke was sentenced to custody for life and Cullen to life imprisonment with recommendation that he serve a minimum of 25 years.

Mr Michael Self, QC and Mr Peter Christopher Gadd, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Howe; Mr Michael Self, QC and Mr Peter Christopher Gadd, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Jones; Mr Benet Hytner, QC and Mr J.R. Foster for Burke; and Mr Roy Warne, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Cullen.

The position in law of the actual killer remained the same as it was before Lynch that is, if he did not have the defence of provocation, the noble Lords were reinforced in that view by the majority decision of the judicial committee of the Privy Council in *Abbott v The Queen* (1977) AC 755.

The two judges in the present cases were correct in their view as to what the law was at present and their directions to the jury accurately reflected the law.

It was true that to allow the defence to the aider and abettor but not to the killer might lead to illogicality, as was pointed out by the Court of Appeal in *R v Graham* (para 1) (1982) 1 WLR 294 but that was not

A similar course of conduct was followed by the principal, a man named Pollie. The appellants were in the position of principals in the first degree and the judge did not leave the jurors to the jury on that issue. The third interested person, a man named Clarkson, who managed to escape, Duruss was left to the jury on the charge of conspiracy.

The appellant Burke, then aged 18, shot a criminal called Henry Botton, aged 63, at a point-blank range with a sawn-off shotgun on the doorstep of his house. He was told that he agreed to shoot because of fear that, if he did not, they would be killed by Clarkson on the gun went off accidentally. The judge said that the law required to go more than

available to the actual killer rather by removing it from the appellant.

R v Richards (1974) 58 Cr App R 60 was incorrectly decided, but it could not properly be distinguished from the instant case. In those circumstances, the appellants were obliged to follow the decision until such time as it was overruled.

In cases such as the present where the best evidence of the fact had prevailed upon another to commit a criminal act, a more satisfactory rule would be to allow each to be convicted of the offence appropriate to his role, whether or not that would involve the accessory in being convicted of a more serious offence than the principal. The judge was in the

Problems of bail

Possession no offence

Said v Kennell

The Crown was proved to be infringing in possession of infringing copies of cinematograph films in which copyright subsisted at the time of his arrest. The defendant was found to be in possession of an infringing copy of a film under section 21(4A) of the Copyright Act 1956, as amended by section 1 of the Copyright Act 1956 (Amendment) Act 1962, merely by possessing those copies having purchased them from a third party.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice of Appeal (Skinner) held on January 11, 1970, following the defendant's appeal against his conviction by the Magistrates of March 14, 1965, in respect of 10 infringing copies of the defendant's alleged offences contrary to section 21(4A).

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD

wrong to construe the words "by way of trade" in section 21(4A) as meaning "via trade" so that a person in possession by way of trade if he purchased infringing copies from a trader, a person who bought them for his own consumption could not be liable under section 21(4A).

To establish guilt under that section the prosecution had to prove that a person in possession of infringing copies with full knowledge had them for the purpose of trading with them, or that he had taken them out in the course of business.

LORD JUSTICE SKINNER, agreeing, said that the words "by way of trade" were intended to define the quality of the possession, not the source of the offending material; that is, possession had to be such as a trader and not as a

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مذاهب الاصول

9.00 Weber and Jannshny:
Weber's Clarinet Quintet
in B flat Op 34; Dohnanyi's
Sextet in C Op 37. Played
by Nash Ensemble.

9.00 Music of Eight Decades
(4): BBC SO (under
Atherton), with Paul Crosse
(piano). Part one.
Messiaen's Chronochromie
Takemitsu's riverun.

9.40 Six Continents: foreign
radio broadcasts
monitored by the BBC.

10.00 Concert: part two.
Bartok's The Wooden
Prince, 11.00 Manchester
Chamber Concert: Israel
Piano Trio, Copland's
Ftatsch: Rachmaninov's
Venezia, Trioun D minor, Op

Radio 2

News on the hour (except 9.00 pm). Headlines 5.30 am, 6.30, 7.30 and 8.30. Sports Desk 1.05 pm, 2.02, 3.02, 4.02, 5.05, 6.02, 6.45 (MF) only 9.55
4.08 am Colin Barry 6.00 Ray Morre 8.05 Jan Bruce 10.30 Jimmy Young 1.05 pm David Jacobs
2.00 Gloria Hunniford (Jill Crawshaw answers holiday problems (phone-in) 3.30 Music all the way 4.00 David Hamilton
5.00 John Dunn 8.00 Syd Lawrence in Concert (Syd Lawrence Orchestra) 8.45 Big Band Special (Syd Lawrence)

Introduces new music for bands from the 1985 EBU Competition
 3.55 Sports desk 10.00 It's a
 Funny Business, June Whitfield
 reminisces 10.30 Hubert Gregg
 says Thanks for the Memory 11.00
 Brian Matthew presents Round
 Midnight (stereo from midnight)
 11.00 am Charles Nove presents
 Nighttime 3.00-4.00 A Little
 Music

News on the half hour from
5.30 am until 9.30 pm and at 12
midnight.6.00 am Adrian John
7.30 Mike Read 9.30 Simon Bates
12.30 pm Newsbeat (Frank
Partridge) 12.45 Gary Davies 3.00
Gieve Wright 5.30 Newsbeat
(Frank Partridge) 5.45 Bruno
Brookes. At 6.30, the new Top
10 album chart 7.30 Janice Long
10.00-12.00 John Peel VHF
RADIOS 1 & 2 4.00 am As Radio 2
12.00 am As Radio 1 12.00-4.00
am As Radio 2

WORLD SERVICE

630 Newsdesk 7.00 News 7.05 Twenty-
 Hrs. 7.30 Report on Religion 7.45
 That's the News 8.00 News 8.05
 11.15 Classical Record Review 8.30
 Note, Unquote 9.00 News 9.05 Review
 the British Press 9.15 The World
 today 9.30 Financial News 9.40 Look
 ahead 9.45 Short Takes 10.00 News
 10.01 Minutous 10.30 Jazz Scores 11.00
 News 11.05 News about Britain 11.15
 Doctor Who 11.25 A Letter From Wales
 11.30 Radio Newsweek 12.15 Nature
 Notebook 12.25 The Farming World
 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 News 1.05
 Newsdesk 1.15

German News 2.00
Report on Religion 3.00
Radio Newsweek
A Perfect Day 3.30 Hinge and
Bracket 4.00 News 4.30 Commentaries
15.00 Rock Salad 4.45 The World Today
5.00 News 5.09 A Letter From Wales
5.15 Monitor 8.00 News 8.09 Twenty-
Four Hours 9.15 Album Time 9.45
Recording of the Week 10.00 News
10.15 The World Today 10.25 A Letter
From Wales 10.30 Financial News 10.40
Reflections 10.45 Sports Roundup 10.49
News 11.09 Commentaries 11.15 Mood
11.20 News 11.30 Top Tenz 12.15 News
12.08 News About Britain 12.15 Radio
News 12.30 Hinge and Bracket 1.00
News 1.01 Update 1.30 Wavebreak 1.30

BBC Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; VHF -
94m; VHF 95 & BBC Radio Lon-

BORDER As London Ex-
cast 12.30pm
1.00 Glamour 1.20-1.30 News
3.30-4.00 Young Doctors 6.00-6.35
Lookaround 12.15am News,
Closedown

SCOTTISH As London Ex-
cast 1.20pm News
1.30 Job Stop 1.35-3.00
Film: 'Never Look Back' 4.00
3.30-4.00 Report Back 5.30-
6.35 News and Scottish Today
12.15am Late Call, Closedown

TSW As London Except:
1.20pm-1.30pm News.
5.15-5.45 Gus Honeybadger
5.45 Crossroads 6.00 Today Show
West 6.30-7.00 That's My Dog
12.15 Postscript, Closedown.
ANGLIA As London Except:
12.30pm-1.00 Mr and
Mrs 1.20-1.30 News 5.00-5.25
About Anglia 12.15am 1.00am Al-
ways Remember, Closedown.

ENTERTAINMENTS

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Ocean yields up priceless porcelain

By Geraldine Norman

A cargo of Chinese porcelain which has lain for over 200 years carefully packed in crates at the bottom of the South China Sea was unveiled by Christie's yesterday in an Amsterdam warehouse. Comprising over 160,000 pieces conservatively valued at £3 million, it is to be dispersed in a five-day auction between April 28 and May 2.

Its discovery and retrieval by a team of divers led by Captain Michael Hatcher is an extraordinary story. As if the porcelain was not enough, some of it still encrusted with limpets, shells and coral, there are also more than 100 solid gold ingots.

What makes the discovery unique is that the ship's papers survive and for the first time the lading bill of an 18th century Dutch East India ship is not merely a dry list. It can be compared with the actual porcelain on the warehouse shelves.

The Dutch East India Company is not revealed as an imaginative importer. Most of the porcelains are decorated with standard landscape and flower patterns. There are plates, bowls, teapots, butter dishes, tea caddies, saucers, bowls and several hundred chamber pots. Some are to be sold singly and some as dinner services.

The smallest services will provide a setting for six people, the largest for 144. Price estimates are much in line with brand new dinner services from Harrods. There should be £10 lots as well as £30,000 ones.

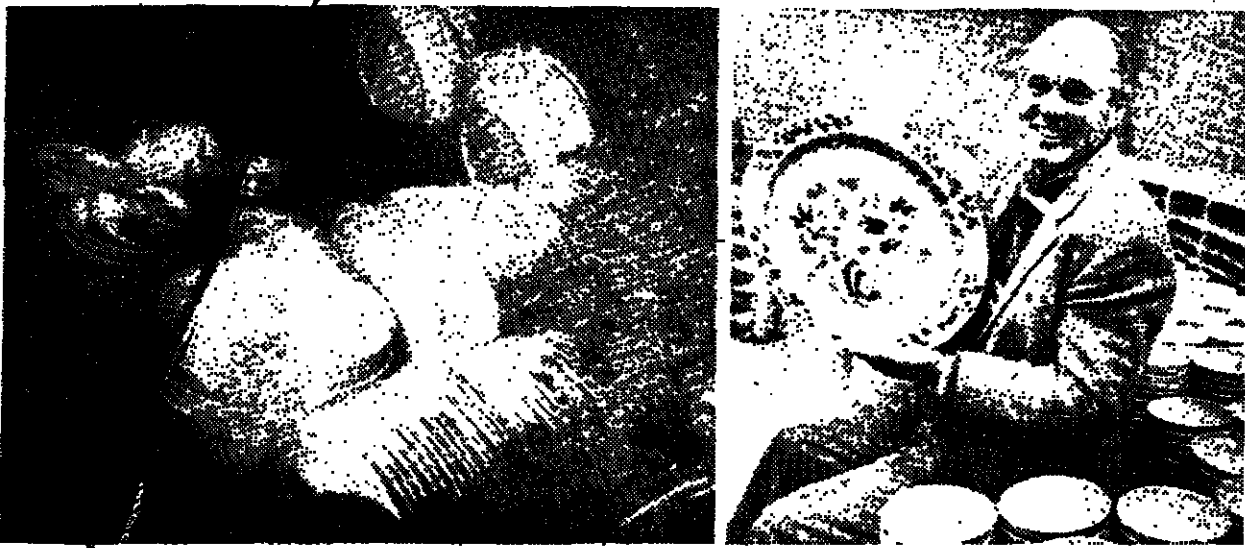
Tanned with sea and sun, Captain Hatcher has been watching over his booty in Christie's icy warehouse this week. He is a British adventurer of the old school. A Dutchman first suggested that he turn his attention to old wrecks. Captain Hatcher had recovered the wheel from the submarine in which his father sank.

He turned his attention instead to salvaging the cargo of a Chinese junk that had gone down in international waters in 1645. The 23,000 pieces of porcelain were auctioned by Christie's for a total of £2.5 million.

Searching the same area



An inquiring fish investigates the crates of amazingly perfect porcelain found on the floor of the South China Sea.



One of the crates opened to display the find and, right, Captain Michael Hatcher, the successful treasure-hunter.

between March and May last year, Captain Hatcher discovered a coral reef in the aftermath of January 3, 1752 and sank at 1.30 am the next morning. Christie's dated the wreck to about 1750.

Only one Dutch ship was

lost in that period, the Geldermalsen. It ran on to a coral reef in the aftermath of January 3, 1752 and sank at 1.30 am the next morning. Two boats escaped.

After drifting for 10 days they arrived at Batavia. They had the ship's papers with them but not the captain.

Final proof of the boat's identity has only been found in the last three weeks. Captain Hatcher brought up two brass cannons and the ship's bell which bear the initials VOC of the Dutch Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie or East India Company. This proof that the vessel was of Dutch origin means he will have to give a percentage of the take to the Dutch Government.

TUC tells unions not to cross picket line

Continued from page 1

continued the kicking and punching and said they would remember our faces. I certainly recognized at least one of theirs.

"I complained to Norman Willis immediately, who was very concerned. I said that I would not allow my members to attend any further meetings until I received assurances about their safety."

More than 300 demonstrators, thought to be mainly print workers formerly employed by News International, gathered outside Congress House before yesterday's meeting of the TUC Council.

Mr Michael Hicks, a Sogat father of the chapel (branch chairman) at John Menzies, the news wholesalers, told them the union would try to strengthen moves to block distribution of *The Times*, *The Sun*, *The Sunday Times* and *The News of the World*.

News International has written to leaders of the three print unions, whose members work for the company, warning them of legal action if there are continued efforts to persuade members to stop working at the new plants in east London and in Glasgow.

The letters were sent yesterday to Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union; Mr Hammond; and Mr Harry Conroy, general secretary of the National Union of Journalists.

The letter to Mr Hammond acknowledges that he has so far decided not to accede to requests from other trade union leaders and from the TUC.

News International has also issued a writ against Sogat '82 for damages for non-publication of the *News of the World* in Manchester last Saturday night.

The Prime Minister said yesterday that she hoped *The Times* would soon overcome its troubles and that everyone could have the paper "with our breakfast again".

Letter from Tokyo Wine, plonk, or grape juice?

An EEC official visiting Japan's northern island of Hokkaido spotted a hand-some-looking bottle of wine with a foreign label.

Gratified that European products were penetrating a part of the country not known for the sophistication of its taste the official picked up the bottle to inspect its baroque European label. In tiny letters at the bottom it said, in English: "Bottled in Japan."

Though it did not say so, in all probability the wine was actually a mixture of up to 98 per cent imported bulk and two per cent local plonk. That combination is common and perfectly legal in Japan, to the consternation of EEC representatives.

With the endorsement *Marque Deposee* on a bottle labeled *Merican Cabernet Vin de Qualite Excellente* anyone might be forgiven for thinking that he was being offered a French wine. How is the Japanese consumer to know that the bottle contains an inglorious mixture of East European and South American bulk wine and what some call "local grape juice" when there is not a trace of his own language on the bottle?

Few Japanese know much about wine or the requirements of ageing and the domestic industry, which supplies a tiny fraction of home demand, seems in no hurry to behave responsibly either to its customers or to foreign countries with long and distinguished histories as wine producers.

The problem for the European Economic Community, which has produced an exhaustive two-volume study of discriminatory trade practices against foreign liquor, is proving that customers are actually being deceived. It is a difficult case to make particularly as Japanese are apt to regard such appellations as champagne to be as exclusive as the term video-recorder. The generic term rules because Japanese law provides no description of

what actually constitutes whiskey or wine or brandy, for that matter.

The excuse is that the drinking of foreign hooch is a relatively recent phenomenon and the attendant classifications have not had time to develop. In contrast, of course, other classifications in areas which might threaten Japanese markets have developed remarkably quickly, just ask any foreign manufacturer trying to sell cars into Japan.

But it was not so much the EEC, but a scandal in Japan's third largest wine-producing firm, Manns Wine, that gave consumers a hint that they should not judge a bottle by its label.

For years Manns had been producing expensive wines, up to £100 a bottle, they billed as "100 per cent domestic". What undid Manns was last year's diethylene glycol scare. When government officials arrived to check Manns' vats they discovered that the firm had secretly destroyed vats

imported Austrian plonk contaminated with the poison, which had been used to blend into their wines. The management had to resign, the firm was forbidden to produce wine for a period in punishment and wine lovers have filed 1.4 million Yen damage claims against the company.

Shaken by the scandal collapsing wine sales industry has belatedly decided to act. A council wine producers represent about half those domestically has decided to adopt guidelines starting with a month's advance notice to indicate on their label wine contains or must.

The guideline ever, is only a recommendation and does not have force of law.

Needless to say ruling has not anyone at the EEC's sensitive office, changing the label is not an adequate return concern," said a community's diplomat.

David Wai

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Princes of Wales, President, Business in the Community, visits Business Initiatives Centre, Scotch Street, Carlisle, 10.10; and later accompanied by the Princess of Wales, he receives The Freedom of Carlisle, Civic Centre, 11.55; in the evening, they attend a choral concert at the Royal Academy of Music, Marlborough Road, NW1, 7.25.

Princess Anne, attends the National Farmers' Union "British Growers' Look Ahead" National Conference

and exhibition at the Metropole Centre, Brighton, 11.45.

The Duke of Kent leaves RAF Northolt for an official visit to Austria, 11.10. The Duchess of Kent leaves London Gatwick airport for Hongkong, 8 pm.

Music

Royal Bank Concert, Nottingham Royal Hall, 7.30. Whitehall Choir/Rosebery Orchestra, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45.

Recital by Department of Music, Yvonne Howard (mezzo-soprano) and John Parr (piano), University of Leicester, 1.10. Concert by Steve Reich and

Musicians, Dominion Theatre, 7.30.

Harp recital by Marisa Robles, 1; Philharmonia Orchestra, John Carewe (conductor) and Elizabeth Treason (violin), 7.45, Barbican Centre.

Recital by Sylvia Hunter (soprano), May Dumas (piano) and Janet Parris (clarinet), 12.30; organ recital by David Liddle, 5.55, GLC South Bank Concert Halls.

BBC Symphony Orchestra, David Atherton (conductor) and Paul Crossley (piano), Royal Festival Hall, 7.30. Violin and piano sonatas by Mozart and Beethoven, Maria Lidka and Angus Morrison, Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead NW3, 7.30.

Recital by Madeleine Whitehall (violin) and Marilyn Phillips (piano), St. Olave Church, Hart Street, 1.05. Bourne Mouth Symphony Orchestra, with Bernard D'Ascoli (piano), Wessex Hall, Poole, 7.30.

Songs between the wars, by Lissenden Players, Lauderdale House, No. 8.

Talks, lectures films

Sever, by Jane Gardiner, 12; Ham House, by Gillian Darby, 1.15; Victoria and Albert Museum, SW7.

Leonardo's drawings of horses in context, by Hon. Jane Roberts, National Gallery, 1.

New acquisitions in context (3); Millar and Sandys, by Simon Wilson, 1; Memories of Monet & Monet in London, 2.30, Tate Gallery.

Approaches to the study of B.A. metatext, by Dr. S. Pearce, archaeology seminar room, University of Leicester, 2.30.

A layman's guide to galleries, Part III, by Nick Waterbottom, Castle Museum, 1.

Impressionist paintings of women, by Polly Chappera, Courtyard Institute Galleries WC1, 1.

Cries fit for heroes, by Rt. Rev. David Lunn, Bishop of Sheffield, St. James's Church, Piccadilly, 1.05.

The Georgian town house, by Mark Girouard, Georgian House, 6.15.

Energy in buildings, by D. T.J. Wiltshire, University of Birmingham, 11pm.

Inter-cultural conflict, by Dr. Michael Argyle, St. Anthony's College, Oxford, 8.15.

Indian cookery demonstration, with Suresha Verma, South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell, 1.15.

Precambrian Tectonic processes: an insight from Southern Africa, by Dr. M. Daly (University of Leeds), Grant Institute of Geology, University of Edinburgh, 7.30.

Old pharmaceutical practices, by Helen Walker, Room MB1, University of Buckingham, 7.30.

General National Book League lecture, by Piers Paul Read, Royal Over-Seas League, SW1, 7.

New books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

Buildings for Music, The Architect, The Musician, and the Listener from the Seventeenth Century to the Present Day, by Michael Forsyth (Cambridge, £30).

Don Quixote de la Mancha, by Miguel de Cervantes, translated by Tobias Smollett, introduction by Carlos Fuentes (Andre Deutsch, £15, paperback £8.95).

Franz Liszt, the Man and the Musician, by Ronald Taylor (Images of Liszt, Sexual Carvings on Medieval Churches, by Anthony Weir and James Jerman (Batsford, £17.50).

Kipling's India, Uncollected Sketches 1884-88, edited by Thomas Pinney (Macmillan, £25).

Roman Circuses, Arenas for Chariot Racing, by John H. Humphrey (Macmillan, £27.50).

Shakespeare's Last Play, Edmund Ironside, edited by Eric Sams (Fourth Estate, £25).

The Games of the Gods and Imperialism, by J. A. Mangan (Viking, £14.95).

The Worst of Times, An Oral History of the Great Depression in Britain, by Nigel Gray (Wildwood House, £11.95).

Women Writing About Men, by Jane Miller (Virago, £10.95), paperback £5.50.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending January 18:

1. *EastEnders* (Thurs), 21.20m

2. *EastEnders* (Thurs), 19.80m

3. *News*, sport, weather (Sat 21.00)

4. *Don't Wait Up*, 13.85m

5. *The Two Ronnies*, 15.50m

6. *Coronation Street*, 12.00m

7. *10-De-11*, 12.90m

8. *The Bill*, 12.50m

9. *Wogan* (Fri), 12.55m

10. *Coronation Street*, 12.00m

Anniversaries

Births: Emanuel Swedenborg, philosopher, Stockholm, 1688; Daniel Bernoulli, mathematician, Groningen, Netherlands, 1700; Thomas Paine, Theophilus, Norfolk, 1737; Sir Ebenezer Howard, founder of the garden city movement, London, 1850; Frederick Delius, English composer, 1861.

Deaths: George III, reigned 1760-1820, London, 1820; Edward Lear, San Remo, 1884; Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig, Field Marshal, London, 1926; Sir Evelyn Baring, 4th Baron Cromer, 1917; Robert Frost, poet, Boston, Massachusetts, 1963.

The Victoria Cross was instituted, 1856.

Road network map

A new edition of Great Britain's colour map showing the development of Great Britain's road network published yesterday.

The *Development of the National Road Network* depicts progress on all national road projects at November 1985.

Existing roads and new schemes under construction or in planning are shown. The map is available from The Department of Transport, Publications Sales Unit, Building, Victoria Road, South Ruislip, HA4 0NZ, cost £3.00 for each sheet, accompanied by crossed cheque or postal order. Telephone 01 212 3434.

Lighting up time

London 5.14 pm to 7.53 am
Edinburgh 5.14 pm to 7.22 am
Manchester 5.15 pm to 7.22 am
Glasgow 5.40 pm to 7.22 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, F; 1, 1.1; 2, 1.1; 3, 1.1; 4, 1.1; 5, 1.1; 6, 1.1; 7, 1.1; 8, 1.1; 9, 1.1; 10, 1.1; 11, 1.1; 12, 1.1; 13, 1.1; 14, 1.1; 15, 1.1; 16, 1.1; 17, 1.1; 18, 1.1; 19, 1.1; 20, 1.1; 21, 1.1; 22, 1.1; 23, 1.1; 24, 1.1; 25, 1.1; 26, 1.1; 27, 1.1; 28, 1.1; 29, 1.1; 30, 1.1; 31, 1.1; 32, 1.1; 33, 1.1; 34, 1.1; 35, 1.1; 36, 1.1; 37, 1.1; 38, 1.1; 39, 1.1; 40, 1.1; 41, 1.1; 42, 1.1; 43, 1.1; 44, 1.1; 45, 1.1; 46, 1.1; 47, 1.1; 48, 1.1; 49, 1.1; 50, 1.1; 51, 1.1; 52, 1.1; 53, 1.1; 54, 1.1; 55, 1.1; 56, 1.1; 57, 1.1; 58, 1.1; 59, 1.1; 60, 1.1; 61, 1.1; 62, 1.1; 63, 1.1; 64, 1.1; 65, 1.1; 66, 1.1; 67, 1.1; 68, 1.1; 69, 1.1; 70, 1.1; 71, 1.1; 72, 1.1; 73, 1.1; 74, 1.1; 75, 1.1; 76, 1.1; 77, 1.1; 78, 1.1; 79, 1.1; 80, 1.1; 81, 1.1; 82, 1.1; 83, 1.1; 84, 1.1; 85, 1.1; 86, 1.1; 87, 1.1; 88, 1.1; 89, 1.1; 90, 1.1; 91, 1.1; 92, 1.1; 93, 1.1; 94, 1.1; 95, 1.1; 96, 1.1; 97, 1.1; 98, 1.1; 99, 1.1; 100, 1.1; 101, 1.1; 102, 1.1; 103, 1.1; 104, 1.1; 105, 1.1; 106, 1.1; 107, 1.1; 108, 1.1; 109, 1.1; 110, 1.1; 111, 1.1; 112, 1.1; 113, 1.1; 114, 1.1; 115, 1.1; 116, 1.1; 117, 1.1; 118, 1.1; 119, 1.1; 120, 1.1; 121, 1.1; 122, 1.1; 123, 1.1; 124, 1.1; 125, 1.1; 126, 1.1; 127, 1.1; 128, 1.1; 129, 1.1; 130, 1.1; 131, 1.1; 132, 1.1; 133, 1.1; 134, 1.1; 135, 1.1; 136, 1.1; 137, 1.1; 138, 1.1; 139, 1.1; 140, 1.1; 141, 1.1; 142, 1.1; 143, 1.1; 144, 1.1; 145, 1.1; 146, 1.1; 147, 1.1; 148, 1.1; 149, 1.1; 150, 1.1; 151, 1.1; 152, 1.1; 153, 1.1; 154, 1.1; 155, 1.1; 156, 1.1; 157, 1.1; 158, 1.1; 159, 1.1; 160, 1.1; 161, 1.1; 162, 1.1; 163, 1.1; 164, 1.1; 165, 1.1; 166, 1.1; 167, 1.1; 168, 1.1; 169, 1.1; 170, 1.1; 171, 1.1; 172, 1.1; 173, 1.1; 174, 1.1; 175, 1.1; 176, 1.1; 177, 1.1; 178, 1.1; 179, 1.1; 180, 1.1; 181, 1.1; 182, 1.1; 183, 1.1; 184, 1.1; 185, 1.1; 186, 1.1; 187, 1.1; 188, 1.1; 189, 1.1; 190, 1.1; 191, 1.1; 192, 1.1; 193, 1.1; 194, 1.1; 195, 1.1; 196, 1.1; 197, 1.1; 198, 1.1; 199, 1.1; 200, 1.1; 201, 1.1; 202, 1.1; 203, 1.1; 204, 1.1; 205, 1.1; 206, 1.1; 207, 1.1; 208, 1.1; 209, 1.1; 210, 1.1; 211, 1.1; 212, 1.1; 213, 1.1; 214, 1.1; 215, 1.1; 216, 1.1; 217, 1.1; 218, 1.1; 219, 1.1; 220, 1.1; 221, 1.1; 222, 1.1; 223, 1.1; 224, 1.1; 225, 1.1; 226, 1.1; 227, 1.1; 228, 1.1; 229, 1.1; 230, 1.1; 231, 1.1; 232, 1.1; 233, 1.1; 234, 1.1; 235, 1.1; 236, 1.1; 237, 1.1; 238, 1.1; 239, 1.1; 240, 1.1; 241, 1.1; 242, 1.1; 243, 1.1; 244, 1.1; 245, 1.1; 246, 1.1; 247, 1.1; 248, 1.1; 249, 1.1; 250, 1.1; 251, 1.1; 252, 1.1; 253, 1.1; 254, 1.1; 255, 1.1; 256, 1.1; 257, 1.1; 258, 1.1; 259, 1.1; 260, 1.1; 261, 1.1; 262, 1.1; 263, 1.1; 264, 1.1; 265, 1.1; 266, 1.1; 267, 1.1; 268, 1.1; 269, 1.1; 270, 1.1; 271, 1.1; 272, 1.1; 273, 1.1; 274, 1.1; 275, 1.1; 276, 1.1; 277, 1.1; 278, 1.1; 279, 1.1; 280, 1.1; 281, 1.1; 282, 1.1; 283, 1.1; 284, 1.1; 285, 1.1; 286, 1.1; 287, 1.1; 288, 1.1; 289, 1.1; 290, 1.1; 291, 1.1; 292, 1.1; 293, 1.1; 294, 1.1; 295, 1.1; 296, 1.1; 297, 1.1; 298, 1.1; 299, 1.1; 300, 1.1; 301, 1.1; 302, 1.1; 303, 1.1; 304, 1.1; 305, 1.1; 306, 1.1; 307, 1.1; 308, 1.1; 309, 1.1; 310, 1.1; 311, 1.1; 312, 1.1; 313, 1.1; 314, 1.1; 315, 1.1; 316, 1.1; 317, 1.1; 318, 1.1; 319, 1.1; 320, 1.1; 321, 1.1; 322, 1.1; 323, 1.1; 324, 1.1; 325, 1.1; 326, 1.1; 327, 1.1; 328, 1.1; 329, 1.1; 330, 1.1; 331, 1.1; 332, 1.1; 333, 1.1; 334, 1.1; 335, 1.1; 336, 1.1; 337, 1.1; 338, 1.1; 339, 1.1; 340, 1.1; 341, 1.1; 342, 1.1; 343, 1.1; 344, 1.1; 345, 1.1; 346, 1.1; 347, 1.1; 348, 1.1; 349, 1.1; 350, 1.1; 351, 1.1; 352, 1.1; 353, 1.1; 354, 1.1; 355, 1.1; 356, 1.1; 357, 1.1; 358, 1.1; 359, 1.1; 360, 1.1; 361, 1.1; 362, 1.1; 363, 1.1; 364, 1.1; 365, 1.1; 366, 1.1; 367, 1.1; 368, 1.1; 369, 1.1; 370, 1.1; 371, 1.1; 372, 1.1; 373, 1.1; 374, 1.1; 375, 1.1; 376, 1.1; 377, 1.1; 378, 1.1; 379, 1.1; 380, 1.1; 381, 1.1; 382, 1.1; 383, 1.1; 384, 1.1; 385, 1.1; 386, 1.1; 387, 1.1; 388, 1.1; 389, 1.1; 390, 1.1; 391, 1.1; 392, 1.1; 393, 1.1; 394, 1.1; 395, 1.1; 396, 1.1; 397, 1.1; 398, 1.1; 399, 1.1; 400, 1.1; 401, 1.1; 402, 1.1; 403, 1.1; 404, 1.1; 405, 1.1; 406, 1.1; 407, 1.1; 408, 1.1; 409, 1.1; 410, 1.1; 411, 1.1; 412, 1.1; 413, 1.1; 414, 1.1; 415, 1.1; 416, 1.1; 417, 1.1; 418, 1.1; 419, 1.1; 420, 1.1; 421, 1.1; 422, 1.1; 423, 1.1; 424, 1.1; 425, 1.1; 426, 1.1; 427, 1.1; 428, 1.1; 429, 1.1; 430, 1.1; 431, 1.1; 432, 1.1; 433, 1.1; 434, 1.1; 435, 1.1; 436, 1.1; 437, 1.1; 438, 1.1; 439, 1.1; 440, 1.1; 441, 1.1; 442, 1.1; 443, 1.1; 444, 1.1; 445, 1.1; 446, 1.1; 447, 1.1; 448, 1.1; 449, 1.1; 450, 1.1; 451, 1.1; 452, 1.1; 453, 1.1; 454, 1.1; 455, 1.1; 456, 1.1; 457, 1.1; 458, 1.1; 459, 1.1; 460, 1.1; 461, 1.1; 462, 1.1; 463, 1.1; 464, 1.1; 465, 1.1; 466, 1.1; 467, 1.1; 468, 1.1; 469, 1.1; 470, 1.1; 471, 1.1; 472, 1.1; 47